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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MHS Glee Club wins gold at TBMF

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first four days of the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam was quite a triumph for the Marianas High School Glee Club, which bagged another gold over the weekend, underscoring the group's gold-winning streak in the last few years of the festival.

See MHS on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero poses for a picture with Marianas High School Glee Club's Rhythm 'N Harmony during the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

Propst bats for controlled dev't

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following the flood of tourist arrivals, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) wants the government to slow down and control development in the CNMI.

Propst

The CNMI had a total of 501,489 tourist arrivals in 2016, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. It was a 4.55-percent increase compared to 2015's numbers of 479,679, an almost 10 percent jump compared to the numbers in 2014.

Propst said that controlled eco-

See PROPST on Page 4

OPM asks for more funds for increase

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Office of Personnel Management director Isidro K. Seman is asking for more money so his office could complete giving out the 5 percent salary increases of all civil service employees provided in Public Law 19-83.

PL 19-3 sets a new base salary schedule for classified civil service government employees and increased the salary ceiling for classified civil service government employees. It also includes the still unfunded pay hike for governor, lieutenant governor, and legislators.

In last Friday's meeting with members of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, Seman said that being able to pay all qualified civil service employees remains OPM's top prior-

See OPM on Page 4

Yamamoto agrees to pay $167,627 to NMS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

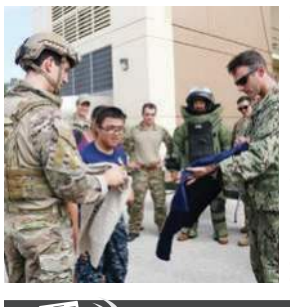
Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto has agreed to pay $167,627 to National Maritime Services Inc., the former custodian of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto and NMS, through George Lloyd Hasselback and Sean E. Frink, filed a stipulated judgment before the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday.

Yamamoto and NMS have reached a settlement deal regarding payment of services for custody and care of M/V *Luta*. The settlement agreement was filed under seal in court.

See YAMAMOTO on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL
Fifteen-year-old Robert Blas was able to become a U.S. Navy sailor for a day.
PAGE 8

NATION
President Trump accuses former President Obama of tapping his telephones in 2016.
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WORLD
A total of 110 people in Somalia have died from hunger in the past 48 hours.
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Local

Couple appeals case's dismissal to 9th Circuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owners of Victoria Hotel in Garapan have appealed the federal court's dismissal of their racketeering lawsuit against a bank in Guam to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Jesus T. Lizama, his wife, Victoria L.G. Lizama, and their J&JEV Enterprises Inc., through counsel Juan T. Lizama, filed their notice of appeal on Friday.

The appeal seeks to reverse the court's dismissal of their lawsuit against ANZ Guam Inc., formerly known as Citizens Security Bank (Guam) Inc., which the Lizamas accused of operating in the CNMI without a license.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona had dismissed the Lizamas' seventh cause of action—violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act—citing failure to state a claim.

In a 22-page order granting ANZ Guam's motion to dismiss, Manglona declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Lizamas' remaining state law claims, saying the RICO claim provided the sole basis for the court's original jurisdiction over the lawsuit.

The lawsuit stems from foreclosure proceedings brought by ANZ Guam against the Lizamas, and J&JEV Enterprises in the CNMI Superior Court.

Manglona said the plaintiffs' entire RICO claim is premised upon the assertion that ANZ needed a full-service banking license in the CNMI when it executed the mortgage agreement in Guam and instituted foreclosure proceedings in the CNMI.

"ANZ did not need a full-service CNMI banking license when it executed the mortgage agreement in Guam and, in fact, had one when it instituted foreclosure proceedings over the CNMI real properties," the judge pointed out.

The Lizamas and ANZ entered into a loan agreement in Guam on Jan. 9, 1997. ANZ agreed to loan the Lizamas $1.8 million, with 1.75 percent interest, to build the Victoria Hotel in Garapan.

The loan was converted into a business loan in 1999, together with a promissory note in the increased amount of $1.99 million.

When plaintiffs defaulted on the loan, ANZ tried to foreclose mortgage against plaintiffs in the Superior Court in June 2000.

In 2001, the Superior Court issued an amended default judgment and order directing the Lizamas to pay ANZ $2.2 million in principal and interest.

ANZ, through counsel Joyce Tang and Robert T. Torres, moved to dismiss the racketeering lawsuit.

BSI OUTREACH
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team Imperial Pacific International Pirates and Team Bank of Saipan are joined by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. majority shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie before the Little League game yesterday for refreshments and meet-and-greet at the Miguel Basa Pangelinan Ballfield at the Oleai Sports Complex in Oleai.

Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
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Saipan Marathon 2017
Registration Deadline: March 10, 2017

The last day to register for **Saipan Marathon 2017** is Friday, March 10, 2017. This annual signature of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) will be held on Saturday, March 25, featured a marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 50K.

Applications and a fact sheet are available at www.mymarianas.com under the NMI Events Calendar or at the MVA office in San Jose. Registration is U.S. and NMI participants is now $65.00 for the 50K and marathon and $55.00 for half-marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students is $40 (student I.D. required). Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

The Saipan Marathon is now certified the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) and the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). IAAF uses the measurement standards of AIMS, an association of over 400 race organizations in 100 countries and territories around the world.

As a reminder, competitors will be required to pick up their race packets on March 24, 2017, at Paseo De Marianas, without exception. For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 670.664.3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

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'Universal settlement' explored in fake recruitment case

The U.S. government and the lawyer of a former recruiting assistant who is being sued for allegedly faking a claim of nominating four potential soldiers to the Army National Guard are exploring a "universal settlement."

The lawyer for the U.S. government, assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab, and the lawyer of Ana Maria A. Mendiola, Robert T. Torres, have asked the court—for the third time—to give Mendiola more time to respond to the lawsuit.

Schwab and Torres said the extension is needed so they may explore a "universal settlement" of all possible charges and obligations of Mendiola.

The parties said Torres has been communicating with the U.S. Attorney's Office and expects an outcome within 14 days from last Feb. 28.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona gave Mendiola until March 14, 2017, to respond to the complaint.

Schwab alleged in the civil complaint that Mendiola, who is a resident of Rota, received a total of $7,000 for the four fraudulently claimed potential soldiers.

The U.S. government is suing Mendiola for four counts of violation of False Claims Act, one count of unjust enrichment, and one count of payment by mistake.

Schwab asked the court to hold Mendiola liable to pay the U.S. government $21,000 for damages, as well as penalties and court costs.

From 2005 to 2012, the Army National Guard ran the Army National Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, where recruiting assistant get incentives for recruiting soldiers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man allegedly beats up girlfriend

A former mixed martial artist was arrested last week for allegedly beating up his girlfriend.

Maitai Kapileo Charley, 32, allegedly punched his girlfriend several times on her right arm and on the back, choked her, and threw an unopened can of beer in her face.

The victim later complained of pain in her back, head and arms, but refused medical treatment. A police officer took photos of her several bruises on the arm. She was crying, sobbing, and shaking when a police detective interviewed her.

A $20,000 cash bail was imposed on Charley for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The Public Defender's Office was appointed counsel for Charley.

According to a police, Charley beat up his girlfriend in the bedroom of their house in Garapan last Feb. 25 after she refused to give him money.

The victim said Charley also beat her up before but she dropped her complaint in hopes he would change. She went to Japan and when she came back to Saipan they resumed their relationship.

In November 2013, Charley was arrested for allegedly slapping a woman in Garapan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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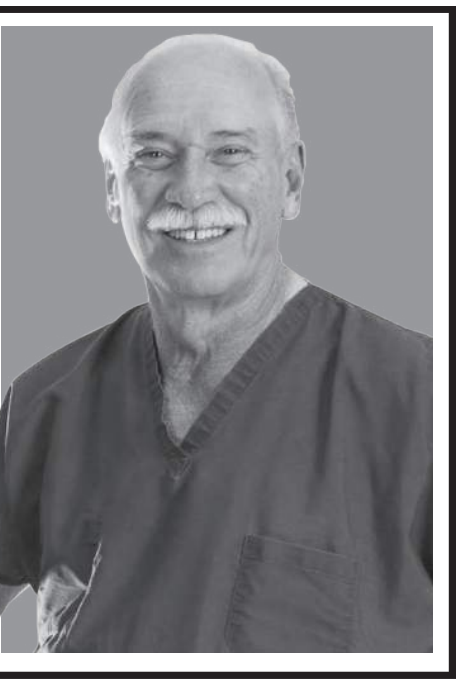

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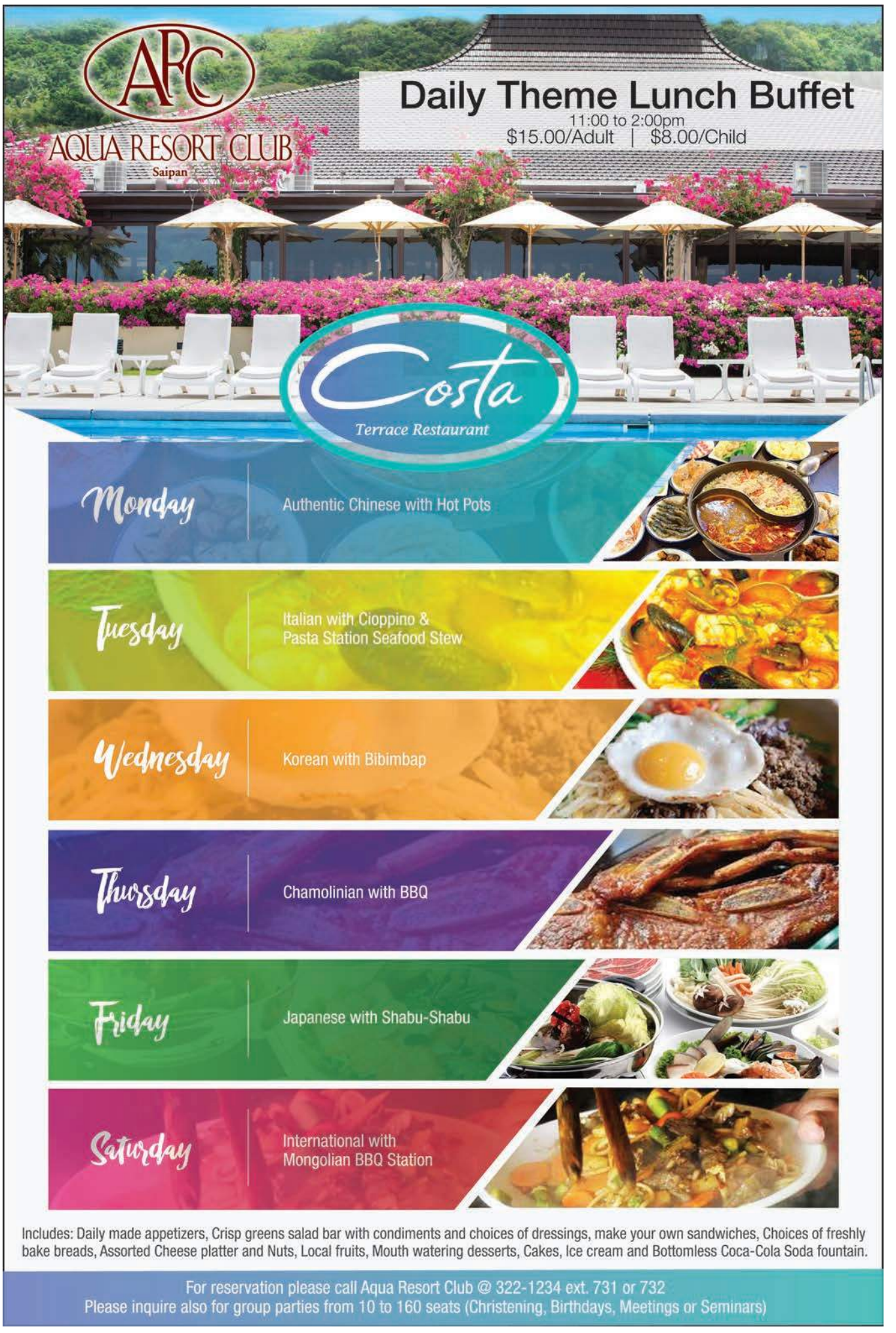

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Rota students scout out TanHoldings job fair

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROTA—Students from the Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School joined a job fair conducted by TanHoldings last Friday at the Chamorro Bucks' Auditorium.

A mix of 10th, 11th, and 12th graders filled out and turned in application forms to the Human Resource personnel of TanHoldings-affiliate companies, such as Let's Go Tour, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Oriental, Inc., *Saipan Tribune*, and Century Tours.

"Working for Let's Go sounds cool. I get to drive a Polaris Razr, tour the island, and meet people [tourists]. It's nice to work and have fun doing it instead of just sitting and doing nothing when school is on break," said junior Jamil Barcinas after handing in his application form to Let's Go Tour's Ed Arriola.

Barcinas and his classmates, during the job fair, watched video clips of Let's Go Tour, while other students who expressed interest in applying for a job in TanHoldings' affiliates were briefed on each company's operation.

"At first, I had second thoughts of coming to the job fair. But after hearing the opportunities that await us, I found the offers interesting and may give it a shot. I am kind of thinking now where to go after I finish school, so this job fair gives me an option," said senior Angelie Marie Guiang, who filled out an application form from Kanoa Resort.

Guiang's classmate—Keone Hocog—is moving to Guam after her senior year and she is happy to find out that Fiesta Resort also operates there so she is considering applying with the company once she's settled in.

Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School councilor Elvira Mesngon helped TanHoldings facilitate the job fair and was thankful for the opportunities given to Rota students.

"We really appreciate TanHoldings' kindness and efforts as they come here and have this job fair. It allows our kids and other members of the community to find hope beyond our waters. It helps our students see what other options they have because we know Rota has limited resources," Mesngon said.

"If they decide to work at TanHoldings, it will be a great experience for them as they get ready for college. They may even be able to save money to pay for their own education or if they decide to stay and work hard, they will earn their way up in the company," she added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings executives and employees entertain applicants from Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School during a job fair held last Friday at the Chamorro Bucks' Auditorium.

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, who led the team that conducted the job fair and had an outreach program on Rota from last Thursday to Saturday, said the company wants to help stimulate the island's economy.

"TanHoldings is a local company operating in Micronesia for the past 45 years and 35 years in the CNMI. While Saipan has recovered economically, Rota's economy is still depressed. Thus, we have decided to reach out to the Rota community and invite all high school students, veterans and everyone to consider job opportunities at TanHoldings on Saipan until such time when new jobs are created on Rota. There are many talented people on Rota, including our students, that could contribute to CNMI economy and be part of our workforce," he said.

Tan, along with TanHoldings vice president for finance Eli Arago, vice president for business development Ivan Quichocho, vice president for corporate business development Alex Sablan, vice president for corporate affairs Catherine Attao-Toves, and TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino also led the turnover ceremony of donated shirts from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for all the school's students and teachers.

YAMAMOTO

From Page 1

The settlement deal requires Yamamoto to stipulate to a judgment in the amount owed to NMS.

Hasselback and Frink disclosed that the judgment shall not be enforced so long as Yamamoto pays NMS pursuant to the terms of their settlement agreement.

Last Feb. 22, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter ordered the immediate release of M/V *Luta* to its owner, Luta Mermaid LLC, after Yamamoto reached a settlement agreement with the vessel's custodian.

Following the settlement, Carter discharged the court's previous order to show cause against Yamamoto and relieved NMS of its duties as custodian for M/V *Luta*.

Luta Mermaid LLC members are Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Carter found the settlement deal acceptable.

Carter earlier gave Yamamoto 24 hours or until last Feb. 22 to settle with NMS his share of $130,000 in custodial fees.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood issued the order to show cause a few weeks ago against Yamamoto for failing to pay his outstanding balance of $130,000 in custodial fees. Yamamoto had already initially paid $30,000 in custodial fees.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Yamamoto to appear in court and explain why he should not be held in contempt for resisting the court's order for him to pay his share of custodial fees.

The vessel's crew, Long Consulting, and Norton Lilly have complied with the court's order by paying their shares for custodial fees in the total amount of $28,916. The crew and the two companies are intervenors in Yamamoto's lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and the owners of M/V *Luta*.

Tydingco-Gatewood determined that Yamamoto's relationship with Abelina T. Mendiola and her family demonstrated that he was a joint venture with them in M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and the Mendiolas for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. The vessel was seized shortly after the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship last Oct. 25. NMS was then appointed as custodian of the vessel.

Yamamoto's several other claims in the lawsuit are pending in court.

PROPST

From Page 1

nomic development is one of the serious issues that he discusses with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres whenever he has a chance to talk to CNMI's chief executive officer. "I know the governor wants to diversify our tourism industry."

"We need controlled economic development, that's something I firmly believe in and the governor is all for that during our extensive talks. There are other things that we need to pursue."

Propst said the CNMI should look at other island nations in the Pacific or within the Micronesian region like Palau, which has also seen a dramatic growth in tourist arrivals, most especially from China, which had doubled in the last two years.

"Look at the impact of all of this tourism growth on Palau. Palau President [Tommy] Remengesau and Palauans are concerned about the impact of this on their environment."

He said Remengesau has suggested cutting back the number of chartered flights flying to Koror. "The influx of all these tourists is having an impact on their environment. Palauans are very concerned about this."

Some Palauans have been complaining that several tourists are disrespectful to the islands' pristine environment and are too noisy. Tourism accounts for more than 80 percent of Palau's gross domestic product.

Remengesau even proposes a new law that would make it difficult for budget travelers to visit their country.

"They [Palauans] wanted to increase the quality of visitors to their country, not the quantity. That's what they are focusing on. If you want to come to Palau, you need to spend some money. We need to see more of that as well here in the CNMI," said Propst.

The CNMI also has its share of problems like long lines at the airport, particularly at immigration, which could have a negative impact on visitors. A number of spearfishing incidents have also been reported, endangering not only the species' natural habitat but also other swimmers.

Tourists' driving skills, where they either just make sudden stops in the middle of the road or take an abrupt U-turn, have also become a common complaint.

MHS

From Page 1

Led by musical director Paul Dujua, the 16-man Glee Club's Rhythm 'N Harmony performed three songs to win first place in the choral section of the music festival last March 3.

The group made its triumphant return to the festival by singing popular Broadway songs such as *Magic to Do* from the musical *Pippen* by Stephen Schwartz, *The Schuyler Sisters* from the musical *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, and *When You Believe* from the movie *Prince of Egypt*, also by Stephen Schwartz.

Dujua told *Saipan Tribune* that they are "very happy and proud to represent the CNMI" in Guam.

The group consists of Joselle Reyes, Erica Tubera, Clarisse Torio, Diane Hermogenes, Charley Sablan, Grace Catalma, Eden Conner, Malua Hosono, Rinisa Torres, Leonard Manuel, Miguel Aninon, John Huevos, Roland Balajadia, Gios Gozon, James Reyes, and Jordan Acaya.

Dujua is very proud of the group, saying that members of the group "are truly remarkable individuals who hope to inspire others."

"We have such talented youth in the CNMI and I am blessed and humbled to be part of the MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony. These students work very hard to bring out the best in themselves," he said.

Rhythm 'N Harmony was also selected to perform at the Command Performances, the festival's finale concert, this coming Saturday.

The MHS Glee Club was formed in 2010 and won the CNMI's first choral competition in April 2011. In March 2012, the group emerged as the overall champion in the TBMF in Guam, also winning first place.

The TBMF is a music festival that hosts various musical festivals and ensembles, pitting schools from Guam and the CNMI against each other in categories designed for choir, solo performances, jazz, rock, and winds and strings. The CNMI has been a consistent winner at the festival.

The festival is being held from March 2 to 11. Musicians will perform for the public and judges over the course of the 10-day event.

OPM

From Page 1

ity—especially those frozen at Step 12—despite some confusion in implementing PL 19-83 and miscalculations.

"The intention to compensate our deserving public employees who were frozen at Step 12 ranks high on my books despite the fact that we have exceeded the fiscal amount of $1,451,365," Seman told the Senate committee.

"The matter of how we propose to effect payment, who gets paid first, and how to fund it is yet to be determined. We are beyond the point of debating the issue. It would not be in our interest—and most especially our remaining employees who have not been compensated—to dwell on the funding miscalculation," he added.

He did not elaborate on the funding miscalculation. A source told *Saipan Tribune* that some employees received more than the amount that was intended for them.

That's why Seman, along with OPM Employment Development and Staffing director Joseph Pangelinan, have returned to the Senate committee with begging bowls in hand, to ask it for additional funds in order for OPM to pay the remaining civil service employees.

Seman and Pangelinan told the committee that they already processed the notice of proposed adjustment, NOPA, for 119 active and 154 inactive civil service employees, while also processing 20 inactive employees with pending NOPA and 37 inactive Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. personnel.

Seman said the amount had a total cost of $1,774,256, creating a shortfall of $322,892. He said that when PL 19-83 was passed, they started processing the active employees first by reviewing the list of who is eligible for the increase and who is not.

"OPM has reviewed 330 official personnel files to date. We have yet to complete the review of 89 active and 41 inactive employees. It is important that the government's obligation to its employees is resolved as quickly as possible," he added.

That's why they are projecting a total amount of $625,000 to $650,000, including a projected shortfall of about $300,000, in compensating the remaining eligible civil service employees.

Reps. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan), last week also asked OPM to clarify the issue of implementing PL 19-83.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee includes committee chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), and Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan).

ON $5M FUNDING FOR CUC PROJECTS

CNMI, parties seek more time

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is still reviewing some projects of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., causing the delay in the release of $5 million from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Because of this, an authorization to proceed, or ATP, to use the $5 million for some CUC projects was not issued before that day, Wednesday, according to CUC, the U.S. and the CNMI governments in a notice o the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The parties earlier disclosed that Interior issued a grant award of $5 million to the CNMI for stipulated order 2 projects.

The parties—CUC, the U.S. government, and the CNMI government—are now asking the court to again extend the deadline and give the CNMI until April 1, 2017, to file its notice of ATP.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter had already extended the deadline for the CNMI government to file with the court its ATP for $5-million funding on or before Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at the request of the parties.

Pursuant to the court's order, the CNMI must deposit $5 million into the court's registry or file a notice with the court of the DOI's ATP.

The request for extension was jointly filed by CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok, U.S. Department of Justice environmental enforcement section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, and CNMI special assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan.

The lawyers stated in their first request that the U.S., including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Engineering and Environmental Management Company, have been working diligently to obtain the ATP.

However, the lawyers said, it has become apparent that despite all efforts of the parties and the EEMC, an ATP will not be issued on or before Feb. 1, 2017.

They said the delay in the ATP is due to the fact that the Office of Insular Affairs is currently on a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017, and issues surrounding the approval and completion of the CNMI's single audit.

To give more time for the CNMI to obtain the ATP, the parties agreed to extend the deadline to March 1, 2017. The court granted the request. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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2017 KIA SOUL LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $289.56 or $133.64 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,373.60.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-017
KOBLERVILLE SUMP ABANDONMENT AND WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new transmission and distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, new sample taps, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **220 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **March 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-IFB-17-017, Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23rd, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Free blood pressure screenings

Nursing students of the Northern Marianas College will hold free weekly blood pressure screenings at five grocery stores across Saipan in March and April.

Participating grocery stores are Welcome Market in San Roque, Kagman Market in Kagman, Han Nam Market in Koblerville, Twins Market in Dandan, and Joeten Superstore in Oleai.

This project intends to reach into villages to help CNMI residents prevent and control high blood pressure on Saipan.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., with support from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers and NMC, are participating in this project.

The pilot project, funded through the Million Hearts initiative of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aims to identify residents who may not know they have high blood pressure and connect them with the care they need.

The free blood pressure screening and referral will take place from March 6 to April 28, 2017.

Today, March 6, the team will be at the Welcome Supermarket in San Roque, from 3pm to 5pm.

On Tuesday, the team will be at the Kagman Supermarket in Kagman, from 3pm to 5pm.

On Wednesday, the team will be at the Han Nam Supermarket in Koblerville, from 3pm to 5pm.

On Thursday, the team will be at the Twins Supermarket in Dandan, from 3pm to 5pm.

On Saturday, the team will be at the Joeten Superstore in Oleai, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Nursing students at the screening sites will be ready to help set up appointments with a medical provider and provide information on medical cost assistance programs. Educational information on high blood pressure and heart healthy diets will also be available at the screening sites.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, slowly and quietly damages the body for years, with people affected not knowing that they have it. When hypertension is not treated and controlled, hypertension can affect eyesight, and seriously damage the brain, blood vessels, heart and kidney functions. In many cases, untreated hypertension leads to heart attack, heart failure, kidney failure, stroke, and many other serious health consequences including death. Hypertension is also a major drain on health care services, public and individual finances, the workforce, and the economy.

Although hypertension is a large health problem in the CNMI, it is a preventable and controllable condition. Regular physical activity, balanced meals, and maintaining a healthy weight decreases the risk of hypertension and can even help control this problem after diagnosis.

Effectively managing hypertension includes both lifestyle changes, and long-term medication, both of which are challenging when patients aren't experiencing any symptoms.

Margarita Aldan, director of Public Health, is excited to see the results of this effort.

"This is an innovative approach to help residents assess their risk for hypertension and guide them to the care of a medical provider. We hope to find that this strategy makes a positive impact in the community. We're thankful that we are partnering with such wonderful grocery store owners. They are letting us use their businesses for the health of the communities they serve. Combatting hypertension and its potential consequences must be a community-wide effort, and we're fortunate to have these partners," said Aldan.

For more information or to see how you can get involved, contact Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu at kaitlyn.neises@dph.gov.mp or call (670) 783-8427. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-019

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **March 2, 2017** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-019, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water & Wastewater Facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email — manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Gary Byrd, CUC Water & Wastewater Division Manager via email-gary.byrd@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement Technician, via email–marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-020

CORAL TREE AVENUE, GARAPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (S-11-017)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 190 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-020, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan Sewer Line Replacement Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on March 15, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

TRIPLE J DONATION

Triple J Saipan donates $500 worth of equipment to the McDonald's Little League team for the start of the 2017 season. The equipment donated included baseballs, catcher's mitts, first base gloves, and bats. 'We are happy to help out an amazing after-school activity that promotes teamwork and a healthy lifestyle," said Jay Santos, GM of Five Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload store. The team's next big game is March 12 against Bank of Saipan team at 11am.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Puerto Rico Park to open on April 1

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A dump in Puerto Rico that has been converted into a public park will finally open on April 1.

In a statement released by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' office, construction in the area is still in its final phase. For this reason, the Office of the Governors asks the public to steer clear of the area until April 1.

The conversion of Puerto Rico Park, which held its groundbreaking ceremony last June 2015 under the late governor Eloy S. Inos, was originally planned to open last Nov. 23, 2016, but was delayed to Dec. 25, 2016, due to Typhoon Soudelor.

The $27-million project, funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior, was once again delayed to early this year—March to be specific—according to Division of Parks and Recreation director Eli Cabrera in an earlier interview.

The reasoning behind the second postponement remains unknown, but the park would finally be open to the public, after a third postponement, this April 1.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said in an earlier interview that they are excited for the potential of the park.

"We envision this park as a prime recreation area right north of the tourist district of Garapan, where events can be held and community members can partake in various events held year-round," said Concepcion.

The park is located close to the American Memorial Park, a park that tourists frequent.

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Naval Base Guam hosts 'sailor for a day'

THERESA MERTO CEPEDA

Robert Blas is enlisted into the U.S. Navy as "Sailor for a Day" by Capt. Hans Sholley, U.S. Naval Base Guam's commanding officer, during a ceremony at the NBG headquarters March 4. NBG and Make-a-Wish Guam came together to launch the NBG SFAD program, allowing children with special circumstances to walk in the shoes of a sailor.

By GABRIELLE BLAKE
U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

SANTA RITA, Guam—"I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic…" These are the words of the oath said by every single person who enlists in our military.

On March 4, 15-year-old Robert Blas was able to share in a similar experience when he became a "Sailor for a Day" during an honorary enlistment on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

Blas was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and diabetes insipidus when he was born and until a few years ago, was not able to walk. With the help of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Guam and NBG personnel, Blas was able to make one of his wishes a reality, becoming a U.S. Navy sailor.

Capt. Hans Sholley, commanding officer of NBG, coordinated with Make-A-Wish Guam to launch the NBG "Sailor for a Day" program to do something special for children in circumstances similar to Blas'.

"The 'Sailor for a Day program is a chance for the child and their family to have a fun experience and perhaps forget about some of the serious circumstances that have led them to the Make-A-Wish program," Sholley said. "It provides a unique opportunity to show these children 'a day in the life' of a United States sailor and allows the military community the opportunity to collectively 'roll out the red carpet' and give a child with challenging life circumstances an unforgettable experience."

Blas' adventure started with his enlistment into the Navy, uniform issue, and a ride on a U.S. Coast Guard small boat.

"USCG Sector Guam was truly honored to be a part of Robert's wish," said Capt. James Pruett, Coast Guard Sector Guam commander. "Robert saved the day on board the 45' Rescue Boat out in Apra Harbor. He is an inspiration to the crew and Coast Guard and we hope this experience was as rewarding for him as it was for us."

Blas' grandmother and guardian, Mary Yoshida, accompanied him as he took a ride on the NBG firetruck. He was also integrated with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 and Naval Special Warfare Unit 1, taking tours, controlling robots, and observing demonstrations. He received an evaluation of his performance, End of Tour award, and a command coin as a testament to a job well done.

Blas was recently gifted a PlayStation 4 by Make-A-Wish Guam so he could play his favorite game, Call of Duty Black Ops, and said he was excited to be able to become a "Sailor for a Day" and meet some of the people who get to do the sort of missions he plays in the game.

The mission of Make-A-Wish is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

"Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI is excited for this new partnership with Naval Base Guam as is our Wish kid, Robert," said Eric Tydingco, Make-A-Wish Guam/CNMI executive director. "With a significant number of our local population either active duty, Guard or Reserve, children are already familiar with folks in the military. We're happy to add this wish enhancement to Robert's wish and we're grateful to Capt. Sholley and the Naval Base Guam team for participating in the program."

Department of Veterans Affairs
TOWN HALL MEETING

Hosted by Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office
Director Karen M. Gooden
&
Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System
Associate Director Tonia J. Bagby &
Nurse Executive Kate Hansen-Schmitt

WHO: *Veterans, their families and Survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of Veterans*

WHAT: *Town Hall Meeting*

WHERE: *Kanoa Resort*
Seaside Hall
Kanoa Beach Road

WHEN: *March 9, 2017, 1:00pm to 2:30pm*

WHY: *To share information, hear feedback from customers and to answer questions on VA health care and benefits.*

For more information please contact Aiko Shibuya, Public Affairs Officer, Honolulu VA Regional Office at (808) 433-0501 or Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer, Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System, at (808) 208-5544.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – February 9, 2017
2) **Public Comments**
3) **New Business**
   1. Marianas Film Festival Proposal
   2. Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations – APC Machines
   3. Tinian Lookout Project
   4. ITB for Garapan Area Trash Collection
4) **Old Business**
   1. Procurement Regulation for Destination Enhancement
5) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)
Requires: Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (5)
Requires: Diploma from technical/vocational course on automotive/diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment. Performs mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must also be skilled in parts fabrication. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Load Planning Specialist (3)
Requires: Associate's Degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircraft's operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)
Requires: Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience with a supervisory capacity in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Plans work and supervises mechanics in performing mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)
Requires: Associate's degree in related field. Five (5) years equivalent work experience. Specific airline certification as load planner. Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to Int_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 15, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the **Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan.** Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L&T Group of Companies, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Supervisor (1)
Requires: Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. One to two years equivalent work experience. Provides assistance and customer service to passengers by performing various customer service duties in the airport such as check-in, reservations, baggage and processing. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Customer Service Agent (Interpreter) (6)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years' experience working as Passenger Service agent or on any related field of work. Fluency in a specific foreign language (Chinese/Korean) is required. Foreign Language speaking interpreters must effectively convert the verbal communication of one of these languages (Chinese/Korean) into the verbal form of the other. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (3)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, preparing documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment and be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Must be proficient in the use of CSP Cargo Trac System. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (5)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, operating equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Ability to teach operation of specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@tanholdings.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 15, 2017.
Applications for employment are available at the Security Office, ground floor, south wing.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (1)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent, (2)
High school diploma or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor, Retail (1)
High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Operations Manager (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate (2)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Inventory Assistant (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **March 15, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Saipan Adventures Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Guam police officer found guilty of negligent homicide

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A former Guam police officer has been found guilty of negligent homicide in connection to the 2015 shooting death of a fellow officer, but more serious charges have been dropped.

A Superior Court of Guam jury on Thursday found Mark Torre Jr. guilty of negligent homicide but acquitted him of murder and manslaughter, The Pacific Daily News reported (http://bit.ly/2lHh8Ku). He was also found guilty of felony aggravated assault and two special allegations of possession and use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony.

Sgt. Elbert Piolo was shot with Torre's gun inside his truck at Torre's house on July 13, 2015.

Defense attorneys had argued Piolo was distraught over an extramarital affair and shot himself with Torre's weapon as the other officer tried to stop him.

Chief Prosecutor Phillip Tydingco said negligent homicide normally carries a sentence of zero to five years in prison, but because Torre is a first-time offender, they will recommend zero to three years. With the additional charges, Torre could be sentenced to a maximum of 28 years in prison.

Torre declined to comment after the verdict, but his attorney Joaquin Arriola Jr. thanked the jury.

"On behalf of the Torre family, we express our sincere thanks to the jury for taking the time and effort to sit through this very long and arduous process of trial and, most importantly, for deliberating over two days to make a decision in this case and not rush to judgment," he said.

Piolo's mother, Jerelyn Piolo, said she and the rest of her family had hoped Torre would be convicted of murder but that she has resigned herself to the outcome.

"I'm just leaving it to God," she said. "Karma will do the rest."

Guam archbishop: Settlements are a promising end to abuse lawsuits

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The leader of Guam's Catholic Church believes financial settlements could be a good solution for the archdiocese, which is facing $115 million in civil lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse at the hands of priests.

Archbishop Michael Byrnes told The Associated Press Friday that settling with the alleged victims would be a "real promising option," but he did not elaborate.

In 2016, the Rev. Louis Brouillard told the AP that he molested about 20 boys while he was a priest in Guam over a 30-year period, starting in the 1940s.

Byrnes said the 95-year-old Brouillard is the main figure in the 23 lawsuits, and that the church will pay for some of the priest's legal fees.

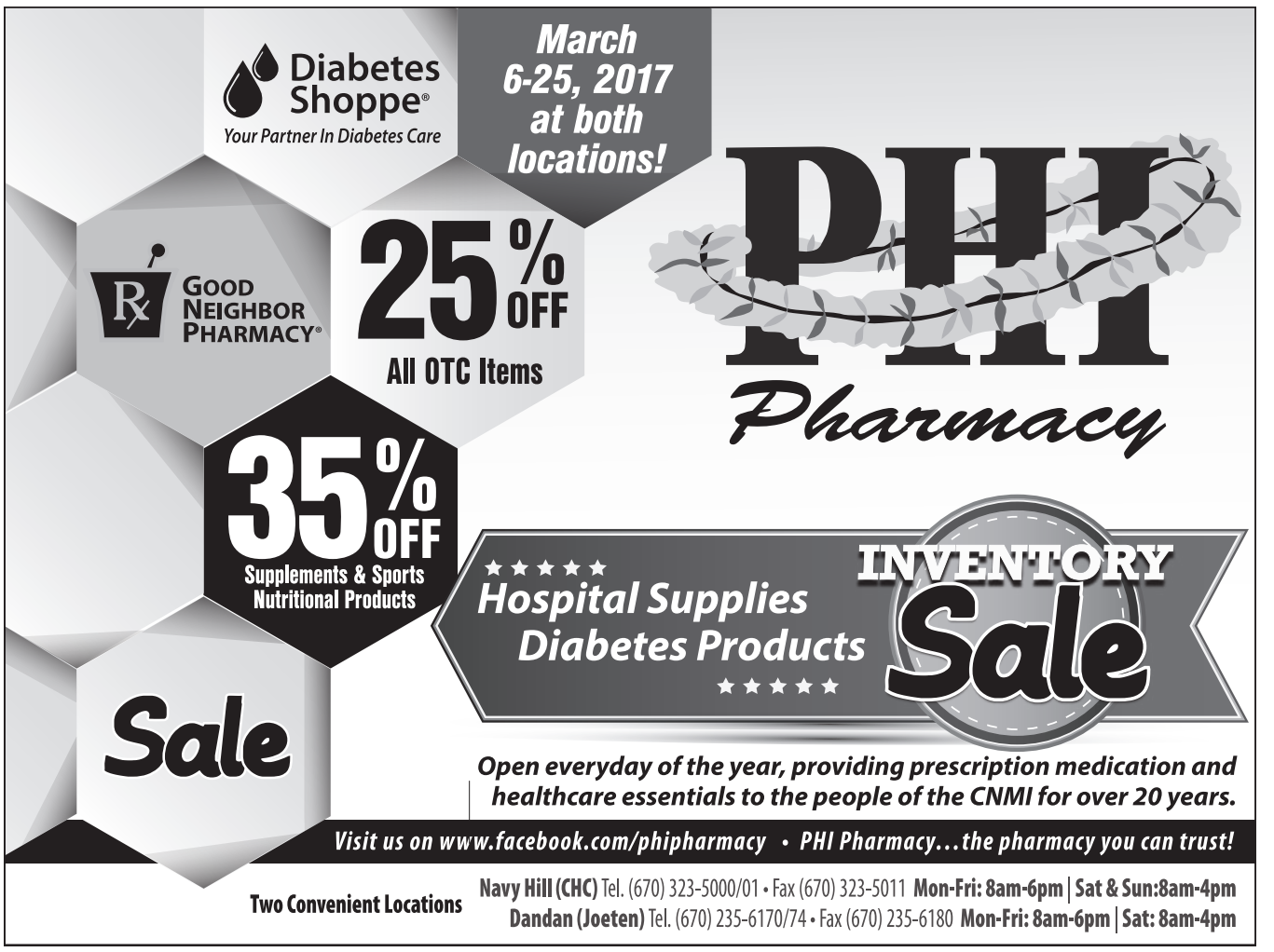
"We're not paying the legal defense of the accused," Byrnes said. "In the specific case of Father Brouillard, we are going to pay for a lawyer for his deposition."

Byrnes says the archdiocese has revamped its sexual abuse policies and will have greater financial transparency, adding that the archdiocese would like to avoid bankruptcy.

"It could mean the liquidation of a lot of properties —whether financial or real property, and that's just reality. Apart from that, we're already facing a reality of a trust factor. The church has lost the trust of a lot of the faithful," Byrnes said. "We could lose a lot of buildings and we'd still be the church. But without the trust of people, it's hard."

The Catholic church of Guam has 26 parishes around the island.

Guam Archbishop Anthony Apuron also faces multiple allegations of sex abuse of altar boys in the 1970s. Apuron, who is currently under investigation by the Vatican, has denied the claims and has not been criminally charged.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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

A good immigration deal should be humane

President Donald Trump has shown an exasperating ability to send mixed signals on important issues, few more exasperating or important than illegal immigration. The disconnect was on full display Tuesday.

At a luncheon, the president told journalists that he supports reforms that would grant legal status to millions of immigrants here illegally who have not committed serious crimes, and perhaps provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers, those brought here as children.

In his speech before Congress that night, he spoke of reforming the nation's legal immigration system; we await details. But Trump, whose recent executive order expands the pool of potential deportees, also starkly evoked the dangers of illegal immigration and said he'd created an office to serve victims of crimes committed by such immigrants. In the audience were family members of Americans killed by immigrants here illegally; the relatives were guests of first lady Melania Trump.

The president is skilled at the art of misdirection, lacks a consistent ideology and always plays to the audience before him, so it's difficult to judge the sincerity of his earlier remarks. But he also is a dealmaker, he likes to "win," and his largest audience is the American people. And most of them—77 percent of registered voters in a Harvard-Harris poll released last week—favor comprehensive immigration reform along the lines he mentioned at that lunch.

Yes, Trump was elected in part on a promise to secure our borders. He should do that, and deport criminals here illegally, too. But he also should stay in touch with the humanity he has shown in his remarks about the unfairness of deporting Dreamers, and push for reforms that most of the nation wants but that have eluded a generation of policymakers.

Trump's core supporters might not like it. This will test both his ability to lead and the strength of his commitment to unify a fractured country. Negotiation is his self-professed strong suit. Trump should use his skill to broker a good deal on immigration reform. That would be a win everyone could celebrate.

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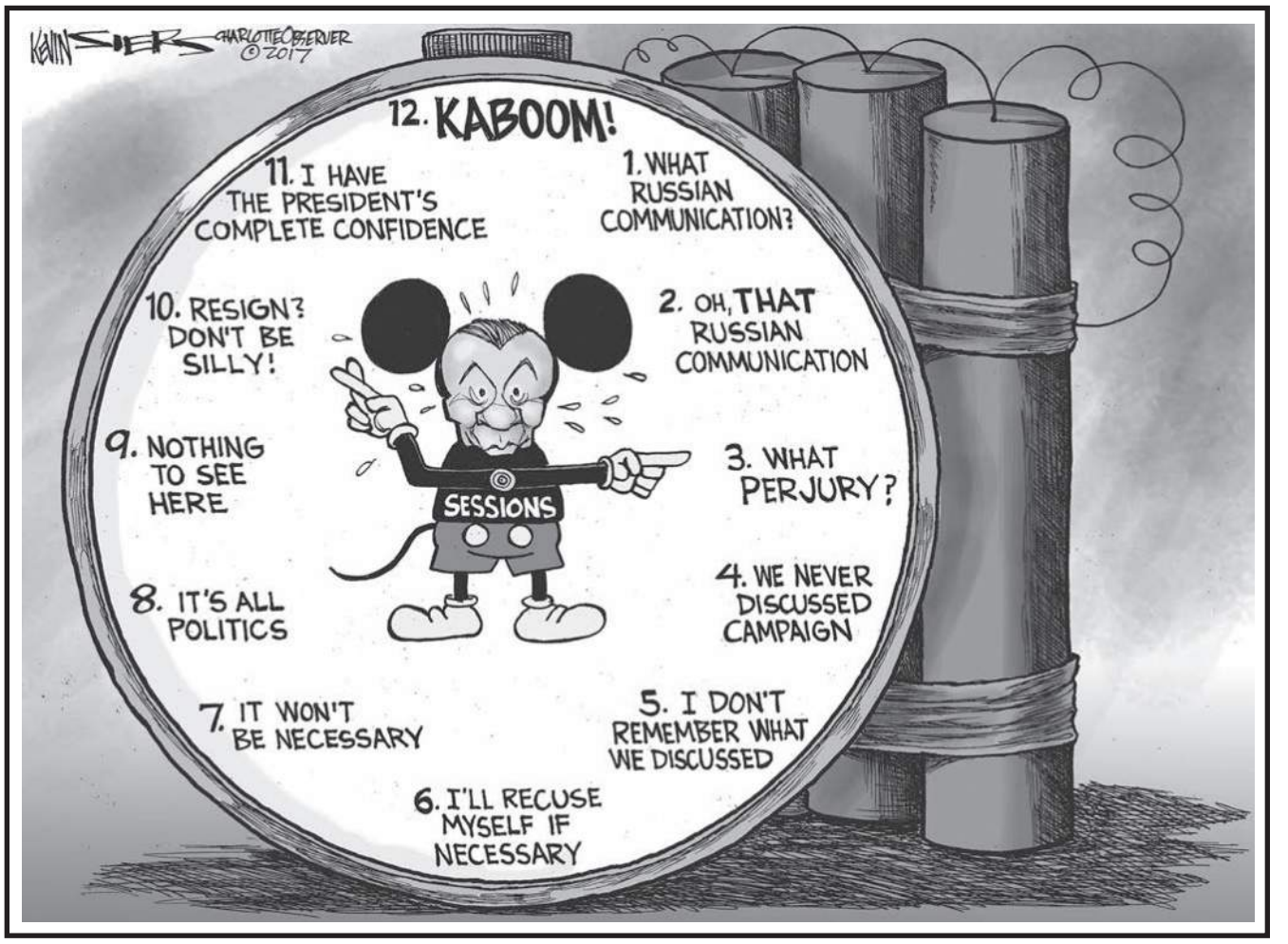
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12. KABOOM!
1. WHAT RUSSIAN COMMUNICATION?
2. OH, THAT RUSSIAN COMMUNICATION
3. WHAT PERJURY?
4. WE NEVER DISCUSSED CAMPAIGN
5. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT WE DISCUSSED
6. I'LL RECUSE MYSELF IF NECESSARY
7. IT WON'T BE NECESSARY
8. IT'S ALL POLITICS
9. NOTHING TO SEE HERE
10. RESIGN? DON'T BE SILLY!
11. I HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S COMPLETE CONFIDENCE
SESSIONS

Has our tolerance only been skin deep?

By SANDY SHEA
Philadelphia Daily News

Sandy Shea is the editorial page editor of the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may email her at sheas@phillynews.com.*

Less than an hour after Barack Obama was elected president for the first time, I was standing outside and watched as hundreds of young people marched toward Philadelphia's City Hall. They were black, brown and white, waving their cellphones, chanting and cheering Obama's victory. Here it was: a new "post-racial" age in which old prejudices and hatreds were part of history, not part of the present.

Yes, as a matter of fact, I am naive.

But for a while, it was easy to believe that social and cultural evolution was real. Here was proof: We elected a black man! Soon, we might have gender equality, too!

The reality as played out over the past eight years is far more checkered, of course. Obama embraced many progressive ideals, and, under his leadership, women and people of color held positions of power—Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan on the U.S. Supreme Court, and Eric Holder, Hillary Clinton, Loretta Lynch in top Cabinet roles, among others.

But for all that progress, we also saw a disturbing rise in racial violence, including police shootings of black men, so much so that we had to be reminded that black lives matter.

For a minute, our defining slogan was "Yes, we can." But then it became "I can't breathe."

No one thought during Obama's two terms that we had entered an Age of Aquarius when it came to racial tolerance. But I thought we at least had progressed a bit on the spectrum, moving a little closer to enlightenment. So when Donald Trump began drawing crowds who responded to his disdain for non-whites—whether they were immigrants, native-born, brown and black, I was disturbed, but not unduly worried.

Until he won the presidential election.

The day after he won, swastikas were spray-painted in Philadelphia, and, by the end of the week, the Southern Poverty Law Center was fielding hundreds of reports of harassment of blacks and Muslims around the country.

The recent desecration of tombstones in Jewish cemeteries in Missouri and Philadelphia and a Catholic cemetery in Philadelphia, bomb threats in Jewish centers across the country, and the recent slaying of Indian IT worker Srinivas Kuchibhotla in Kansas have slammed us back into an ugly past. Surely we abandoned this mindset long ago—and not only those in the "bubble."

What worries me is that the reappearance of these incidents says something ugly about all of us—and not only those who are filled with hate.

We've told ourselves for generations that we are a tolerant nation, that we welcome outsiders, that we are a melting pot of cultures and nationalities. I've believed it. But now I have to wonder: Was that tolerance only skin deep? Was collective hatred so close to the surface that all it took was implied (and explicit) permission from someone who encourages suspicion and fear?

To some degree, tolerance and acceptance must be learned. We learn it from the collective messages of leaders and society at large. Without it, we have no civil society, after all. But if it is learned, that means it can be unlearned.

If tolerance is "unlearned," what we are left with? What worries me is the possibility that hatred and suspicion are our default settings. After all, how many centuries have people been persecuted for their religion? How many eons have people discriminated against black- and brown-skinned people? Well before 9/11, people were suspicious of those wearing head scarves.

Hostility and hatred are as old as civilization itself. And if that's so, does that mean tribal hostility is innate, and that acceptance is a thin veneer?

That's an ugly thought. Because it means I have to question my own beliefs, my own tolerance. I can't take it for granted, can't consider it "innate."

Many who supported Trump were fearful that their place in society has been lost, lost to "the other" who took their jobs or their status. His rhetoric validated those fears, and his election seems to have unbottled them into the kind of hatred we're now witnessing. But Trump didn't create this hatred. This kind of hatred is as old as time. You could argue that it's human nature. But that doesn't mean we should not fight against it, in ourselves or others.

This week, in his address to Congress, Trump, in talking about protectionism, quoted Abraham Lincoln. But it's this Lincoln quote, from his first inaugural address, that I wish Trump would take to heart, and begin communicating himself:

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

We have to serve those better angels. Even if it goes against our darker, uglier natures.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How's he doing? What Trumpers think so far

By DICK MEYER
Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc). Readers may send him email at dickmeyer.dc@scripps.com.

In a column a few weeks ago, I asked supporters of President Donald Trump to email me their views of how he is doing so far. They did, and I thank everyone who took the time to write.

This is not, of course, a statistically sound way to study public opinion, but it is a fascinating way. I heard from many enraged Trump-bashers. I heard from many, many more people who were so enraged by Trump's opponents that their emails were too obscene, racist, anti-Semitic or mean to quote. Many readers wrote comments online instead of sending emails.

After the sorting, I selected roughly 200 emails from Trump supporters that were thoughtful, civil and articulate. Here is an unscientific sample of that unscientific sample (I have corrected obvious typos, some bad grammar and spelling errors):

"Is Trump coarse and excessive and all the other even more derogatory negatives you wish to ascribe to him? In a great many ways, of course he is. And we do see that and know that. But ... he still speaks to and for those of us who wish for America to REMAIN America. ... Time will tell if Trump was the right choice, but to us our country's salvation is worth the try."—Duke B.

"I have become a huge fan of President Trump. I say 'I have become' because he was not my first and not even my second choice for the Republican. ... Every day I see a potential terrorist detained at the border, every day I see an illegal felon being deported, I feel safer."—Tom K.

"I am a small business owner who supports Mr. Trump. I employ 130 Americans, manufacturing products here in the USA, all the while under siege by a flood of Asian imports. ... After eight long years of being demonized as selfish, ignorant rubes by a former president who espoused open borders and global interests at the expense of American interests, we had no choice but to rebel. ... President Trump has begun to deliver exactly what he promised. Clearly, mistakes in execution have been made."—Daryl C.

"We Trump supporters love Trump and hate the rioters and liberal left that are stoking the fires of rebellion. ... What you do not understand is Trump supporters rebelled against political correctness, empty promises from politicians, and politics benefitting fringe America. Mainstream America now has a voice in Trump."—Robert S.

"I voted for Trump mostly because I am afraid of Clinton continuing to let more and more illegal immigrants into the country. ... I have nothing against anyone wanting to be part of our country but they need to do it legally. Trump was the most likely to do that and I hope that in the process of being president he doesn't destroy our country. He is a total jerk with no clue."—Bill C.

"I did vote for Trump because of the lesser of two evils. I support many of his positions, but not proud of the man himself. ... I think the public accepts that if it comes from D.C., lying is the norm. Trump hasn't just introduced this into D.C."—Ron W.

"I guess my conclusion is that I feel this country NEEDS a wake up. Trump might be able to deliver it. None of the other candidates would be even been close."—Barry L.

"Lick your wounds and quit bellyaching about Trump and focus instead on the do-nothing Congress and the failure of the two-party legislative system to bring about any meaningful solutions to the nation's problems."—Larry T.

"It is demoralizing listening to you and all the Democrats spew out hate that is making our country divided and weak in the eyes of the world. We need to help our President Make America Great Again after the last eight years (when) Obama was given a pass just because he is black."—WSReis

"We see action, not words. ... America First and Make America Great Again struck a chord with folks like me—lower middle class, farmers, small business owners, (and) working people that are tired of what seems like Muslim privilege, LBGT stuff, and illegal immigration. Minority over Majority—people are tired of it. Right or wrong, we just had enough."—Jack H.

"I love the fact that President Trump is trying to keep his campaign promises! I love that he cares about all of us in middle income America. We are the hardworking people who have supported this country and all of its give-away programs. We are tired of it and want a break! President Trump and Vice President Pence are bringing God back to the US. I am thrilled!!!"—Susan P.

"Trump was elected president. He should spend NO time on who won the popular vote. If he believes there were illegal votes (and there is evidence there were some) he can implement an investigation as to how many, where and how to correct. Until then, keep his mouth shut (which does not appear to be part of his character)."—Jim T.

"How do I feel now? Actually I feel vindicated to be honest. ... The more protests, the more (his) base grows."—Mike

"There are many things about Trump I do not care for, but he has a chance to lead our country out of the abyss. Before we can get back on the right track there are many people that need to leave government and institutions in Washington that must be destroyed."—Field R.

What do you think?

Trump, journalism galas and pithy ditties

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him email at jskass@chicagotribune.com*

President Donald Trump may have done American journalism a favor by refusing to attend next month's White House Correspondents' Dinner.

A huge favor.

But in their typical "opposition party" peevishness, the Washington Beltway journalistic elite can't grasp this. When Trump announced he wouldn't attend the event, many journalistic hands were wrung all but raw.

He denounces the media as the enemy of the people, and the journalists rage. Now it's a drama, a clique of middle school mean girls furious to learn their victim won't sit with them at the lunch table.

I don't wish to offend my colleagues who love such journalistic social events as the White House Correspondents' Dinner or the Gridiron Club Dinner. Professional societies are important, and seeing old colleagues is a good thing.

Especially if you drink too much and tell old lies and end up doing stupid, undignified things and wake up with terrible hangovers the way you once did as cub reporters.

Yet there is a whiff of the Victorian about these Washington journalism fetes that bothers me. What's troubling is that journos and rulers are on the inside, together, bonding, laughing, roasting each other, celebrating their good fortune at being at the heart of empire.

And outside?

Outside is for the American people.

There was a time when I attended a few of these dinners. But I made sure to mock them in the paper so I wouldn't be invited back and miss something truly important, like my kids' soccer games.

The correspondents' black-tie dinner is about toasting and laughing at the president's jokes in an obsequious but dignified manner, with much polite tittering.

And the other one Trump shouldn't attend, the Gridiron, is an even fancier white-tie and tails affair, and involves musical entertainment. Journalists perform onstage and sing parodies of Broadway show tunes, to the great amusement of the powerful. It is a night of pithy ditties.

But the pithy ditty business bothered me. Perhaps it was the journalists on stage, performing as jesters. In Chicago, you might get drunk with an alderman, but you'd never, ever dance for one. And you'd never sing a pithy ditty to a Chicago politician, not in private, not in public, not drunk or sober or stark raving mad.

So why would Washington journalists perform for the president, tittering at his jokes or singing and dancing as in some late 19th-century music hall at the dawn of the marriage between journalism and progressivism?

Because they want to.

And that's the problem, isn't it? They want to.

It's an even greater problem than the liberal media vs. Trump divide. That one is expected, predictable and commonly understood.

But the yearning to be a part of royal pageantry is something else again.

If Trump indeed stays away from the dinner, the presidential absence might just compel a few to ask questions about the core issue.

Many journalists _ at least those who can think beyond their own liberal tribalism _ must feel uneasy about something that the American people aren't often told.

It's not the cozy journalistic roasts or singing of ditties, either.

It is the corrosive yet symbiotic relationship between Beltway journalism and the modern American kemalists of the vast federal bureaucracy.

It is a relationship very much like that of the tiny African oxpecker and the giant rhinoceros. The oxpecker, a humble bird, picks the ticks from the great rhinoceros's back. The two species don't question why one provides ticks and protection and the other picks the ticks for nourishment. They're happy together, the one feeding ticks and the other eating them.

Presidents come, presidents go.

But in official Washington, journalists and bureaucrats are the ones that remain. And lately, it has become easier to envision them as they must have been in their past lives, as clerks of Byzantium or Rome, cleaving to the state, chattering on about the virtues of the emperors, desperate to defend their place and perks in that world.

A free and vigorous press is critical to the keeping of our republic. And every president must be challenged.

Journalists are good at uncovering hidden facts and hating lies, and worrying stories out of dark holes like the terriers we are.

Yet when it comes to self-examination over what has happened in America over the past several years, journalism has been lacking, almost willfully blind. From Trump's defeat of the Washington political establishment _ first the Republican Party and then the Democrats _ journalism has been unable to see its own flaws.

During the last election, a great, obscene wound was exposed for the American people to see. It was the collusion between elite Beltway journalists and the Democratic National Committee, and it was exposed in WikiLeaks.

That hasn't been dealt with. It hasn't really been seriously addressed, except in binary, predictable, partisan fashion.

But the essence of the thing has been skipped over, with news organizations talking about going to war for the truth. It has been allowed to fester, infecting the one thing that is vital for journalism to do its job: credibility.

At the Chicago Tribune, where I work, many fine quotes about journalism have been carved into the walls of the beautiful, old Tribune Tower lobby.

One of my favorites is this one: "Where there is a free press the governors must live in constant awe of the opinions of the governed."

Notice that it does not mention journalists dancing or singing for the royals, or what happens when credibility is damaged.

There is no mention of symbiosis with a vast bureaucracy. And no mention of pithy ditties.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

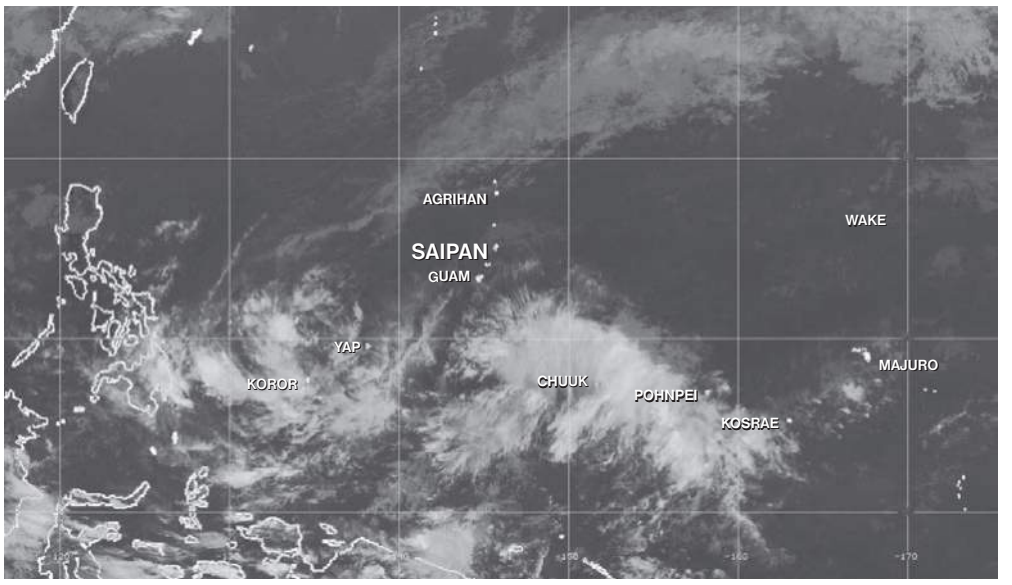
TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:17 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

With only a few showers out there and a drought index still in the moderate category thanks to above normal rain in January and February, the main forecast problem today is for the marine and surf zones. The VAD wind profile shows only a few winds 20 knots or above, and the highest seen this morning has been 28 knots. Therefore, winds should stay below small craft advisory criteria, as should seas with the buoys staying between 7 and 8 feet. However, the last reading from Tanapag buoy in Saipan sported a 6.5 foot northeast swell. If that was straight north and had any corroboration, it would demand a high surf advisory. The fact that it is northeast cuts the surf to about 70 percent, so it is probably about 4 to 6 or 5 to 7 feet right now. If it turns more toward the north or grows much more though, a high surf advisory could still be required.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86 | 78 °F
Palau	Rain	80 | 78 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	83 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Rain	83 | 77 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82 | 80 °F
Kosrae	Rain	83 | 80 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	83 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Clear	73 | 61 °F
Beijing	Clear	51 | 26 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	75 | 66 °F
Honolulu	Rain	82 | 68 °F
London	Light Rain	48 | 38 °F
Los Angeles	Overcast	70 | 53 °F
Manila	Clear	89 | 72 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	76 | 58 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	74 | 67 °F
New York	Clear	37 | 24 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	58 | 45 °F
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	50 | 41 °F
Pusan	Clear	59 | 32 °F
Rome	Light Rain	58 | 51 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	47 | 34 °F
San Francisco	Rain	62 | 47 °F
Seoul	Haze	49 | 24 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	60 | 43 °F
Washington, DC	Clear	40 | 29 °F

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
7:47 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
01:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.8
8:51 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.03

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:47 AM	12:35 PM
Tuesday	-	1:46 AM	1:32 PM
Wednesday	-	2:437 AM	1:29 PM
Thursday	-	3:37 AM	3:27 PM
Friday	-	4:28 AM	4:23 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

2 Saipan businesswomen nominated for award

MAITE, Guam —Two businesswomen on Saipan, together with five others, have been nominated for the 2017 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'håga award.

The two Saipan nominees are Velma Ann M. Palacios, director of network operations, head of network for CNMI, and manager of engineering and manager of plant technical services of IT&E; and Kanae S. Quinn, owner of Quinn Consulting LLC and co-owner of Marianas Fitness Ltd., which does business as Gold's Gym Saipan.

The other nominees are Glendalyn C. Carolino, president and controller of Polyphase System Inc. and Guam Electrical Material Supply; Pika P. Fejeran, president, Hot Concepts Inc., partner of Guahan Eats, which does business as Pika's Café, and secretary and treasurer of In the Kitchen Inc., which does business as Kitchen Lingo; Ramona L. Jones, vice president and CEO of Jones and Guerrero Co. Inc.; Melanie Mendiola, project director of Farm to Table Guam; and Jennifer Rodriguez, owner of Loco Promos.

The Maga'håga award will be presented to one winner at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 29 at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business* magazine's May-June issue, which will feature a commissioned picture of the recipient on its cover.

Now in its 12th year, the award recognizes businesswomen in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community. It is a program of First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* magazine.

Through proceeds from the gala, the program also funds scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Since 2006, the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* Business Woman of the Year program have awarded a total of $234,325 in scholarships to students in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam communities.

Tickets for the gala may be purchased by contacting Melinda Sanchez at mindisan@gmail.com or (671) 929-5343.

The winner will join previous Businesswoman of the Year Maga'håga award recipients, who include Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014). ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, fourth from right, joins American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch and other members and volunteers for a group photo after signing the proclamation declaring March as ARC Month.

March is 'Everyday Heroes' Month

By JON PEREZ
jon_pere@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signed a proclamation declaring March as American Red Cross Month last Wednesday on Capital Hill. The proclamation honors ARC volunteers, especially the NMI Chapter.

The proclamation is the best time to recognize ARC volunteers and thank everyday heroes for their contribution to the community.

"We have a long history of helping our neighbors in need in the CNMI. [The proclamation recognizes] ARC volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members in the CNMI," states part of the proclamation.

ARC volunteers help find shelter for families after a home fire, donate blood for trauma victims and cancer patients, use their lifesaving skills to save a person who is suffering from a heart attack, drowning or choking, and facilitate the vaccination of kids against measles and rubella.

The proclamation applauds the local heroes who selflessly give their time and effort in assisting people during disasters or anyone who needs a helping hand. "The [ARC] depends on local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster."

ARC responds to disasters all over the world. Every 80 minutes the organization provides shelter, food, emotional support, and other needs of those affected.

The ARC also collects 40 percent of the nation's blood supply; gives 24-hour support to members of the armed forces, veterans, and their respective families; conducts lifesaving skills training like being a lifeguard, and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other first aid; and connects family members separated by crisis, conflict or migration through its restoring family links program.

March is dedicated to all ARC volunteers and those who support the organization's mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering during times of emergencies or disasters.

"Our community depends on the [ARC], which relies on donations of time, money, and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission," said the proclamation.

UOG college hosts research conference

MANGILAO, GU—The University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences will hold its 38th Annual Research Conference on Friday, March 10, 2017, from 9am to 5pm, at the History and Social Sciences Building on the UOG campus. The event is open to the public.

This year's conference theme is "Science & Art: Convergence in Oceania." It will feature over 65 presentations representing a wide range of scholarly disciplines covering the arts, education, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Presenters will include local, regional, national and international scholars and artists.

The conference's keynote address is scheduled at 11:15am and will take place in the CLASS Lecture Hall. The keynote speaker is Vicente "Vince" M. Diaz, Ph.D.

Diaz, a Filipino and Carolinian (Pohnpei) born and raised in Guam, is currently on the faculty of American Indian Studies and History at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Diaz attended UOG while playing football for the Tritons in the late 1970s.

After schooling in Hawaii and California, he returned to UOG to teach Pacific History and Micronesian Studies from 1991 to 2001. Diaz then taught Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies at the University of Michigan and Comparative Native Studies at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign before accepting his current position. Diaz served as the historian for the *Hale'ta Our Roots* textbooks produced by the Guam Political Status Education Coordinating Commission, and was instrumental in helping revive traditional seafaring in Guam. He is also the author of *Repositioning the Missionary: Rewriting the Histories of Colonialism, Native Catholicism, and Indigeneity in Guam* (University of Hawaii, 2010) and the writer/director and co-producer of *Sacred Vessels: Navigating Tradition and Identity in Micronesia*. ***(PR)***

GIVING BACK CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
BankPacific assists with the 2017 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. From left, Jill M. Arenovski, SCC executive director; Mercilynn K. Palec, DCC administrator; and BankPacific Saipan branch manager Marvin Deleon Guerrero.

NAVFAC Marianas commander gives construction update

TUMON, Guam—Capt. Stephanie Jones, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas commanding officer, highlighted command accomplishments over the past year and discussed future plans for military construction during an Engineers Week meeting, Feb. 23.

The forum, held at the Hyatt Regency Guam, was hosted by Guam Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, the Guam Contractors Association, and the Guam Society of Professional Engineers, and attended by a host of local construction-related professional organizations.

Engineers Week is an annual celebration, observed this year from Feb. 19-25.

Jones kicked off the presentation with her philosophy on safety. Her message of "construction execution first, safety always" is to serve as a reminder that safety must be a constant, overarching consideration in all NAVFAC Marianas activities.

As more projects get underway, even more attention must be paid to safety, she said. While the NAVFAC Marianas safety record is very good, "I ask for your commitment to safety at an even greater level so we can be even better," Jones said.

A number of Marine Corps buildup related construction projects have been completed or are proceeding, primarily at Apra Harbor and Andersen Air Force Base North Ramp. She said other projects to support the Marine Corps cantonment at Finegayan and the Live-fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field are expected to be awarded this fiscal year when requirements to safeguard endangered and threatened species have been favorably satisfied.

NAVFAC MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Officers of the National Association of Women in Construction Guam Chapter and University of Guam engineering students gather with NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Stephanie Jones following a joint luncheon meeting of the Guam Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, Guam Contractors Association, Guam Society of Professional Engineers, NAWIC, and a number of other Guam construction-related professional organizations on Feb. 23 at Hyatt Regency Guam in Tumon. From left are Camille Facun, engineering student, UOG; Shierly Caceres, president, NAWIC Guam chapter; Jones; Ann Marie Pelobello, president-elect, NAWIC Guam chapter; Catherine Capati, engineering student, UOG and Narci Araojo, parliamentarian, NAWIC Guam chapter.

NAVFAC MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Stephanie Jones speaks at a joint luncheon meeting of the Guam Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, Guam Contractors Association, Guam Society of Professional Engineers and a number of other Guam construction-related professional organizations on Feb. 23 at Hyatt Regency Guam in Tumon.

In addition, a significant military housing construction program has started at Andersen AFB, and the island-wide military housing program could be worth approximately $1 billion over the next 10 years.

While the larger construction projects are of high dollar value, NAVFAC Marianas expects to continue its robust small-business program.

"In fiscal year 2016 NAVFAC Marianas met or exceeded all assigned small-business targets," Jones said. "We awarded $188 million worth of business to small business concerns, which represents 59 percent of what we awarded on island."

With the projected growth in construction, NAVFAC Marianas expects to increase its capacity to oversee the work, she said. "On an annual basis, over the last several years, NAVFAC Marianas has executed with contractors approximately $200 million to $220 million work in place," she said. "At some point in the future with the Marine Corps buildup we expect to be at least four times greater."

The command will likely grow from its current staffing of 570 members to close to 800, most of whom will support the Officer in Charge of Construction Marine Corps Marianas office, which was established in August 2016 to oversee the construction of Marine Corps facilities on Guam.

Jones concluded by extending her thanks for the remarkable partnerships shared between NAVFAC Marianas and the construction community. She also pledged her team's continued close collaboration and support during anticipated military growth in the region. ***(USN)***

NMC Health Fair on March 11 to showcase health services

Several more organizations have signed up to showcase their programs and services at the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club's Health Fair coming up on Saturday, March 11.

The CHCC Immunization Program, Maternal Child Health Bureau, Marianas Health Services, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association will be joining other organizations that will be hosting information and demonstration booths. There will also be presentations from organizations like 500 Sails/ Dolphin Swim Club and a Zumba class by Uncle Ben's Dance Studio.

Health fair activities will run from 8am until 12pm and will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 6am. The first 10 participants who finish the 5K Walk will also receive T-shirt prizes and a raffle ticket to a chance to win great prizes. Entrance to the health fair and the 5K Walk is free.

Those who attend the health fair can also take advantage of free health services including free flu immunizations, screenings for blood pressure and blood glucose levels, as well as free HIV and STD testing and counseling.

Participants will also have a chance to win raffle prizes from The Shack, Coca-Cola, Subway and other prizes from other companies in the community. Funds raised will be donated to the NMC's Nursing Club to purchase lancets and other supplies used for community service projects.

The health fair is supported with the assistance from the CNMI Area Health Education Center, and other NMC and community volunteers.

For additional information about the NMC Health Fair, contact the NMC Nursing Club at 237-6741/6743. ***(NMC)***

NMC

A Northern Marianas College Nursing student, right, preps NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen before she takes her blood glucose check at last year's health fair. This year's health fair will be on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 8am to 12pm.

Bank of Guam declares Q1 dividends

BankGuam Holding Company announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5 percent fixed rate/floating rate noncumulative preferred stock, series A, at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, Feb. 27, 2017. The dividends will be paid on March 31, 2017, to shareholders of record as of March 15, 2017.

BankGuamHolding company president and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "I am happy to report that we have met our financial performance for this quarter, thus allowing us to once again provide a return on our shareholder's investment." ***(BoG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ironman 70.3 Saipan

The first-ever Ironman 70.3 Saipan organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Drivers are advised to exercise caution and follow all traffic officer directions, and dog owners are reminded to secure their pets along the race route from Pau Pau Beach north to Marpi and south along Beach Road to San Antonio. The start and finish line at Pau Pau Beach will be closed to vehicle traffic on race day from 5am to 3pm. For more information, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority. ***(PR)***

Veterans invited to town hall meeting

The Veterans Affairs Honolulu Regional Office and VA Pacific Island Healthcare System will be hosting a town hall meeting for veterans, service-members, their families, and survivors to discuss VA benefits.

The town hall meeting will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Kanoa Resort, Seaside Hall.

The town hall is one of many VA is holding around the country. The meetings are intended to provide veterans, their families and survivors a wide-open forum and for VA officials to hear directly from beneficiaries as a step toward improvement and to rebuild trust among veterans. ***(PR)***

NOAA Fisheries to host public meeting

NOAA Fisheries will be holding a public meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center next Tuesday, March 7, from 6pm to 9pm. The subject is an environmental review of deep-set longline tuna fisheries in the Pacific Islands. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam to Test Giant Voice system

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, "Giant Voice" system March 6 starting at 3pm. Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month. ***(PR)***

Business

GOP healthcare push coming

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans seem set to start muscling legislation through Congress reshaping the country's health care system after seven years of saber rattling.

Don't confuse that with GOP unity or assume that success is guaranteed. Unresolved disputes over taxes and Medicaid rage and conservatives complaining that Republican proposals don't go far enough could undermine the effort, or at least make GOP leaders' lives difficult.

Two House committees—Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means—plan to begin voting Wednesday on their portions of the legislation, barring late problems. Leaders want to push the package through the House this month and hope the Senate can consider it by Congress' early April recess.

It's an ambitious calendar for what could be the year's most momentous congressional battle.

Repealing President Barack Obama's 2010 health care overhaul has long been the GOP holy grail. It helped elect President Donald Trump and has driven the Republican agenda in Congress, given GOP office-seekers a rationale for their candidacies and fueled countless fundraising appeals.

Yet Republicans have never rallied behind an alternative and spent years settling for dozens of bills scuttling the law that went nowhere. Now, with a GOP president and party control of the House and Senate, voters expect Republicans to deliver and party leaders are banking on it.

"If you're a Republican who votes against 'Obamacare' repeal, you're going to have a lot of explaining to do to your constituents," said Doug Badger, a GOP health care adviser.

There are few hard-line conservatives on the two committees poised to vote this week, so the panels will likely approve the legislation over unified Democratic opposition.

Rockier problems loom in the full House and Senate. If 22 House Republicans or three Senate Republicans join united Democrats and oppose health legislation, it would fail.

Highlighting an unabated push to influence the legislation, some GOP governors asked lawmakers last weekend to let states choose to continue receiving unlimited federal money to treat all who qualify for Medicaid, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. Currently, the GOP bill would instead give states set amounts for each Medicaid recipient—a pathway to gradually cutting the federal-state health program for the poor.

It seems counterintuitive that Congress' conservatives would derail such a major, early priority for Trump and GOP congressional leaders. But they have the numbers and anti-establishment temperament to do just that.

Many in the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, which claims around 40 members, oppose the GOP bill's proposal for tax credits to help pay medical expenses for people not covered at work or through the government. They object that the credit, geared to age not income, would even go to people who owe no taxes.

They also oppose a proposal by House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., to tax part of the value of expensive employer-provided coverage. That's an abomination for many Republicans, aware that about half of Americans get health insurance at work.

"A new plan that actually taxes the very workers that voted for Donald Trump and voted for many of our members is not moving in the right direction," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who chairs the caucus and says the bill lacks the votes to pass.

Nigeria charges Shell, Eni with corruption in oil bloc sale

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Nigeria has filed criminal charges of corruption against oil multinationals Royal Dutch Shell and Eni over the $1.1 billion sale of one of Africa's richest oil blocks.

Both companies have denied any wrongdoing.

Charges filed at the High Court in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, allege the companies paid $801 million to former Oil Minister Dan Etete, former Justice Minister Mohammed Bello Adoke and businessman Aliyu Abubakar for the license to OPL 245. Nigeria's government got only $210 million from the deal.

"These charges show Nigeria's intention to fight corruption by holding the powerful to account," Simon Taylor of corruption watchdog Global Witness said in a statement Saturday. "The days when oil companies could use their influence to keep backroom deals with corrupt officials under wraps are over."

He said the alleged bribes amount to 80 percent of Nigeria's 2015 health budget.

Nigerian High Court papers stamped Thursday and seen by The Associated Press name the accused as the Nigeria subsidiary of British-Dutch Shell and its ex-director Ralph Wetzels, Italy's Eni, Eni's Nigeria subsidiary Agip and directors Roberto Casula, Stefano Pujatti and Sebastiano Burrafato.

Also charged is Malabu Oil, the company Etete set up secretly and awarded OPL 245 while he was oil minister.

Etete, Adoke and Abubakar, all believed to be living in Europe, could not be reached for comment.

The charges were laid by Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, which in January won a court order ceding control of the oil bloc to the government.

The commission also has filed new money-laundering charges against Adoke, alleging he corruptly received an additional $2.2 million in 2013 as payment for brokering the deal.

The oil companies have declared their innocence, saying the money was paid to Nigeria's government. Shell and Eni paid $1.1 billion into a Nigerian escrow account at the London branch of JPMorgan Chase in 2011. Adoke, who was then the justice minister and attorney general, authorized its distribution.

The court document alleged the oil companies and their executives "corruptly gave" the money and "thus committed an offense" under Nigeria's Corrupt Practices Act.

Global Witness said in a statement that "Shell and Eni have always denied that they knew the money would go to Malabu, but documents seen by Global Witness show that the companies constructed the deal knowing that the money would flow ultimately to Etete's company."

Global Witness said the case highlights the need for regulations forcing extractive companies to make public the payments made to governments. President Donald Trump has been expected to overturn such a regulation in the United States.

The scandal around OPL 245 has drawn investigators from the United States, Italy, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Italian prosecutors last month asked for Eni, Shell, Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi and 10 others to stand trial for alleged corruption. Eni said it had investigated the allegations and found "no evidence of corrupt conduct."

Nation

Trump: Obama tapped my phones

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump on Saturday accused former President Barack Obama of tapping his telephones during last year's election, lodging a startling allegation of abuse of power without evidence or explanation.

An Obama spokesman declared the assertion "simply false."

In a series of angry morning tweets, Trump suggested his predecessor was behind a politically motivated plot to upend his campaign. He compared the alleged events to "Nixon/Watergate" and "McCarthyism!" He called Obama a "Bad (or sick) guy."

Trump's claims drew bipartisan rebukes from Democrats and Republicans alike who find his habit of venting on social media to be beneath the office of the president. After delivering a well-received speech to Congress earlier this week, the tweets reflected the president's growing frustration with the swirling allegations about his advisers' ties to Russia, which are under FBI investigation, and his team's inability to overcome them. Trump lashed out at his senior team during an Oval Office meeting Friday, according to one White House official.

The White House did not respond to questions about what prompted the president's accusations that Obama had tapped his phones. Presidents cannot legally order wiretaps against U.S. citizens.

Trump said Saturday morning he had "just found out" the information, though it was unclear whether he was referring to a briefing, a conversation or a media report. The president has in the past tweeted about unsubstantiated and provocative reports he reads on blogs or conservative websites.

AP

In this Feb. 27, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

Still, the morning tweets stand out, even for the perpetually piqued Trump, given the gravity of the charge and the strikingly personal attack on the former president. Trump spoke as recently as last month about how much he likes Obama and how much they get along, despite their differences.

"How low has President Obama gone to tapp my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!" he tweeted, misspelling 'tap.'

Obama spokesman Kevin Lewis said a "cardinal rule" of the Obama administration was that no White House official ever interfered in Justice Department investigations, which are supposed to be conducted free of political influence.

"As part of that practice, neither President Obama nor any White House official ever ordered surveillance on any U.S. citizen," Lewis said, adding that "any suggestion otherwise is simply false."

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that Trump was making "the most outlandish and destructive claims without providing a scintilla of evidence to support them."

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., called on Trump to explain what he knows about the wiretapping allegations "ideally to the full public, and at a bare minimum to the U.S. Senate."

Trump has been trailed for months by questions about his campaign's ties to Russia. The questions have been compounded by U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia interfered with the election to help Trump triumph over Hillary Clinton, along with disclosures about his aides' contacts with a Russian official.

Those disclosures have already cost retired Gen. Michael Flynn his job as national security adviser and prompted calls from Democrats for Attorney General Jeff Sessions to resign.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pence criticizes AP for publishing his wife's email address

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Vice President Mike Pence is criticizing The Associated Press for listing his wife's email address in a story about his frequent resistance to public records requests while Indiana's governor. In a tweet Saturday, Pence said that by publishing the personal AOL address of his wife, Karen, the AP "violated her privacy and our security." The vice president posted a letter his counsel sent to Gary Pruitt, the AP's president and CEO. On Friday, the AP reported the Pences used their AOL accounts to conduct official business since at least 2013. Lauren Easton, the AP's director of media relations, said in a statement: "AP removed the email address from subsequent stories after learning Mrs. Pence still used the account. The AP stands by its story, which addresses important transparency issues."

20-year sentence for mistaken Washington state honor killing

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—A Washington state man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing an Oregon man he mistakenly believed impregnated a 13-year-old girl. Yoset Dominguez-Serrano, 21, of Outlook, Washington, received the sentence Friday in Yakima County Superior Court, the *Yakima Herald* reported. Dominguez-Serrano in January pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the February 2015 killing of Antonio Hernandez-Ledezma, 24, of Boardman, Oregon. Dominguez-Serrano told police he believed Hernandez-Ledezma had impregnated Dominguez-Serrano's 13-year-old relative and killed the Oregon man to protect his family's honor. But DNA tests showed Hernandez-Ledesma wasn't responsible for the pregnancy.

Asia

Malaysia expels N. Korean envoy

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia said it expelled North Korea's ambassador on Saturday for refusing to apologize for his strong accusations over Malaysia's handling of the investigation into the killing of the North Korean leader's half brother.

Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said a notice was sent to the North Korean Embassy at around 6 p.m. declaring Ambassador Kang Chol persona non grata. The notice said Kang must leave Malaysia within 48 hours.

Earlier in the week, Malaysia demanded that North Korea formally apologize for Kang's accusations over the investigation into the Feb. 13 killing of Kim Jong Nam at Kuala Lumpur's airport, including that "the Malaysian government had something to hide and that Malaysia has colluded with outside powers to defame" North Korea, Anifah said in a statement.

He said that no apology had come and none appeared forthcoming, and that North Korean Embassy officials also failed to turn up for a meeting Saturday at the foreign ministry, so Malaysia decided to expel the ambassador.

"It should be made clear—Malaysia will react strongly against any insults made against it or any attempt to tarnish its reputation," Anifah said.

The death of Kim, the estranged half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, has unleashed a diplomatic battle between Malaysia and North Korea. Authorities said Kim was killed within 20 minutes after two women smeared his face with VX, a banned nerve agent considered a weapon of mass destruction.

Kang's expulsion came just days after Malaysia said it would scrap visa-free entry for North Koreans and expressed concern over the use of the nerve agent. Anifah had said this was an "indication of the government's concern that Malaysia may have been used for illegal activities."

Earlier Saturday, a North Korean chemist deported from Malaysia accused police of threatening to kill his family unless he confessed to killing Kim. Ri Jong Chol, who was released after police said there was insufficient evidence to charge him, spoke to reporters in Beijing while on his way to Pyongyang.

Ri said that he wasn't at the airport the day Kim was killed, but that police accused him of being a mastermind and presented him with "fake evidence." He said they showed him a picture of his wife and two children, who were staying with him in Kuala Lumpur, and threatened to kill them.

"These men kept telling me to admit to the crime, and if not, my whole family would be killed, and you too won't be safe. If you accept everything, you can live a good life in Malaysia," Ri said. "This is when I realized that it was a trap ... they were plotting to tarnish my country's reputation."

Malaysia's national police chief, Khalid Abu Bakar, said he would hold a news conference on Tuesday to respond to Ri's comments.

Ri was detained four days after Kim died, but police never said what they believed his role in the attack was. Two women—one Indonesian, one Vietnamese—have been charged with murder in the case, although both reportedly say they were duped into thinking they were playing a harmless prank.

Malaysia is looking for seven other North Korean suspects, four of whom are believed to have left the country on the day of the killing. Three others, including an official at the North Korean Embassy and an employee of Air Koryo, North Korea's national carrier, are believed to still be in Malaysia.

On Friday, police issued an arrest warrant for the Air Koryo employee, Kim Uk Il, but didn't say why he is a suspect. Police say he arrived in Malaysia on Jan. 29, about two weeks before Kim was killed.

North Korea earlier had rejected Malaysia's autopsy finding that VX killed Kim. Ri Tong Il, a former North Korean deputy ambassador to the United Nations, said he probably died of a heart attack because he suffered from heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Rule change could make Abe longest-serving leader in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's ruling party approved a change in party rules Sunday that could pave the way for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to become the country's longest-serving leader in the post-World War II era.

It is a remarkable turnaround for Abe, who lasted only a year during an earlier stint as prime minister, and in a country that had six prime ministers in the six years before Abe returned to office in December 2012.

Analysts say that Japan's 62-year-old leader learned from his first term in office, when he focused on divisive issues such as constitutional revision and patriotic education that contributed to his early downfall. This time, he has made an expansionary economic policy with a catchy name, "Abenomics," front and center at election time.

"The interesting thing is that formerly Abe did not seem to be interested in economic policy," said Yu Uchiyama, a professor of politics at Tokyo University. He said that Abe, a conservative, had been more interested in things like constitutional change. "But right after he got power for the second time, he did not put forth such a right-wing agenda. Instead he introduced and emphasized the economic issue."

That doesn't mean Abe has given up on goals such as revising the constitution, which was drafted by a U.S.-led occupation force after World War II. However, Abe needs to win over a reluctant public—any amendment requires approval by two-thirds of the legislature and a national referendum—and that will take time.

"The constitution represents the shape of our country, and it should describe Japan's ideal future," Abe told the annual convention of his Liberal Democratic Party. He said the LDP will take the lead in promoting discussion over details of a revision.

The party on Sunday rubber stamped a decision by its leaders last fall to allow the head of the party to run for a third 3-year term, rather than be limited to two. In Japan's parliamentary system, the ruling party leader generally becomes the prime minister. The change would allow Abe to stay until 2021, if he can maintain the support of his party and voters, rather than step down in September 2018.

Abe, now in his fifth year in office, is Japan's sixth longest serving prime minister since 1945. The record-holder is Eisaku Sato, who led the country for more than seven years from 1964 to 1972. He is also the brother of Abe's grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who was prime minister from 1957 to 1960. If Abe can hold on, he would surpass Sato in August 2020.

Uchiyama said that Abe has maintained his hold on power in part by taking advantage of electoral and administrative reforms that strengthened the prime minister's control of both his party and the bureaucracy.

World

Somalia: 110 dead from hunger

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia's prime minister said Saturday that 110 people have died from hunger in the past 48 hours in a single region—the first death toll announced in a severe drought threatening millions of people across the country.

AP

In this Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 file photo, malnourished baby Ali Hassan, 9-months-old, left, is held by his mother Fadumo Abdi Ibrahim, who fled the drought in southern Somalia, at a feeding center in a camp in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Somalia's government declared the drought a national disaster on Tuesday. The United Nations estimates that 5 million people in this Horn of Africa nation need aid, amid warnings of a full-blown famine.

Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire spoke during a meeting with the Somali National Drought Committee. The death toll he announced is from the Bay region in the southwest part of the country alone.

Somalia was one of four regions singled out by the U.N. secretary-general last month in a $4.4 billion aid appeal to avert catastrophic hunger and famine, along with northeast Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. All are connected by a thread of violent conflict, the U.N. chief said.

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, was expected to visit Somalia in the next few days.

Thousands have been streaming into Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, in search of food aid, overwhelming local and international aid agencies. Over 7,000 internally displaced people checked into one feeding center recently.

The drought is the first crisis for Somalia's newly elected Somali-American leader, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. Previous droughts and a quarter-century of conflict, including ongoing attacks by extremist group al-Shabab, have left the country fragile. Mohamed has appealed to the international community and Somalia's diaspora of 2 million people for help.

About 363,000 acutely malnourished children in Somalia "need urgent treatment and nutrition support, including 71,000 who are severely malnourished," the U.S. Agency for International Development's Famine Early Warning Systems Network has warned.

Because of a lack of clean water in many areas, there is the additional threat of cholera and other diseases, U.N. experts say. Some deaths from cholera already have been reported.

The government has said the widespread hunger "makes people vulnerable to exploitation, human rights abuses and to criminal and terrorist networks."

The U.N. humanitarian appeal for 2017 for Somalia is $864 million to provide assistance to 3.9 million people. But the U.N. World Food Program recently requested an additional $26 million plan to respond to the drought.

UN: If confirmed, chemical attacks in Mosul a war crime

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—The United Nations warned that the alleged use of chemical weapons in Mosul, if confirmed, would be a war crime and a serious violation of international humanitarian law, according to a statement released Saturday.

"This is horrible," Lise Grande, the humanitarian coordinator in Iraq said in the statement, "there is never justification—none whatsoever—for the use of chemical weapons."

The alleged attack occurred this week in eastern Mosul, an area declared fully liberated by Iraqi forces in January. The attack hit a neighborhood along the Tigris River—which roughly divides the city in two.

Doctors in an urgent care hospital in the nearby city of Irbil say they began receiving patients showing symptoms of chemical weapons exposure on Thursday.

"The mortar hit our house, right inside the living room where we were sitting," said Nazim Hamid, whose children had burns to their faces, arms and legs. The family was being treated in the Irbil hospital.

"There was a very bad smell, it was some kind of gas," he said. "My kids were affected, some of them were burned and some of them had difficulty breathing."

Hussein Qader, the deputy director of the hospital, said all 10 patients admitted for exposure are in stable condition and will be discharged in the coming days.

IS has used chemical weapons in Iraq and Syria at least 52 times according to a report published late last year by IHS conflict monitor, a London-based research and intelligence gathering group. The report said that at least 19 of the 52 attacks took place in and around Mosul.

Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition officials have repeatedly expressed concern regarding IS chemical weapons attacks. However IS-claimed insurgent attacks in Iraq and attacks targeting civilians attempting to flee Mosul cause far greater numbers of injuries and deaths to civilians.

Most of western Mosul is still under Islamic State group control despite a handful of recent gains on the city's southwestern edge by Iraqi forces over the past two weeks.

The U.S.-led coalition campaign of airstrikes has been pivotal to securing those territorial gains, but has also resulted in civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure.

Coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Syria between November and January killed 19 civilians and wounded 2, according to a statement from the Pentagon Saturday. The report brings the total number of civilian casualties acknowledged by the coalition to at least 220, according to the Pentagon.

Focus

AP

This Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, photo shows Yoplait Greek yogurt on display at a supermarket in Port Chester, N.Y.

Mayo, wings, butter: 'Fake milk' is the latest food fight

NEW YORK (AP)—Is "fake milk" spoiling the dairy industry's image?

Dairy producers are calling for a crackdown on the almond, soy and rice "milks" they say are masquerading as the real thing and cloud the meaning of milk. A group that advocates for plant-based products, the Good Food Institute, countered this week by asking the Food and Drug Administration to say terms such as "milk" and "sausage" can be used as long as they're modified to make clear what's in them.

It's the latest dispute about what makes a food authentic, many of them stemming from developments in manufacturing practices and specialized diets.

DiGiorno's frozen chicken "wyngz" were fodder for comedian Stephen Colbert. An eggless spread provoked the ire of egg producers by calling itself "mayo." And as far back as the 1880s, margarine was dismissed as "counterfeit butter" by a Wisconsin lawmaker.

The U.S. actually spells out the required characteristics for a range of products such as French dressing, canned peas and raisin bread. It's these federal standards of identity that often trigger the food fights.

COW, NUT, BEAN

Though soy milk and almond milk have become commonplace terms, milk's standard of identity says it is obtained by the "complete milking of one or more healthy cows." That's a point the dairy industry is now emphasizing, with the support of lawmakers who last month introduced legislation calling for the FDA to enforce the guidelines.

"Mammals produce milk, plants don't," said Jim Mulhern, president of the National Milk Producers Federation.

The federation says it has been trying to get the FDA to enforce the standard since at least 2000 , and that the lack of enforcement has led to a proliferation of imitators playing "fast and loose" with dairy terms.

Those products often refer to themselves as "soymilk" or "almondmilk," single words that the dairy industry says is a way to get around the guidelines for "milk."

The Plant Based Foods Association, which represents companies like Tofurky and milk alternatives, says standards of identity were created to prevent companies from passing off cheaper ingredients on customers. But the group says that's not what soy, almond and rice milk makers are trying to do.

Those companies are charging more money, and consumers are gravitating toward them, said Michele Simon, the group's executive director.

The FDA says it takes action "in accordance with public health priorities and agency resources."

EDIBLE, BUT EGGLESS

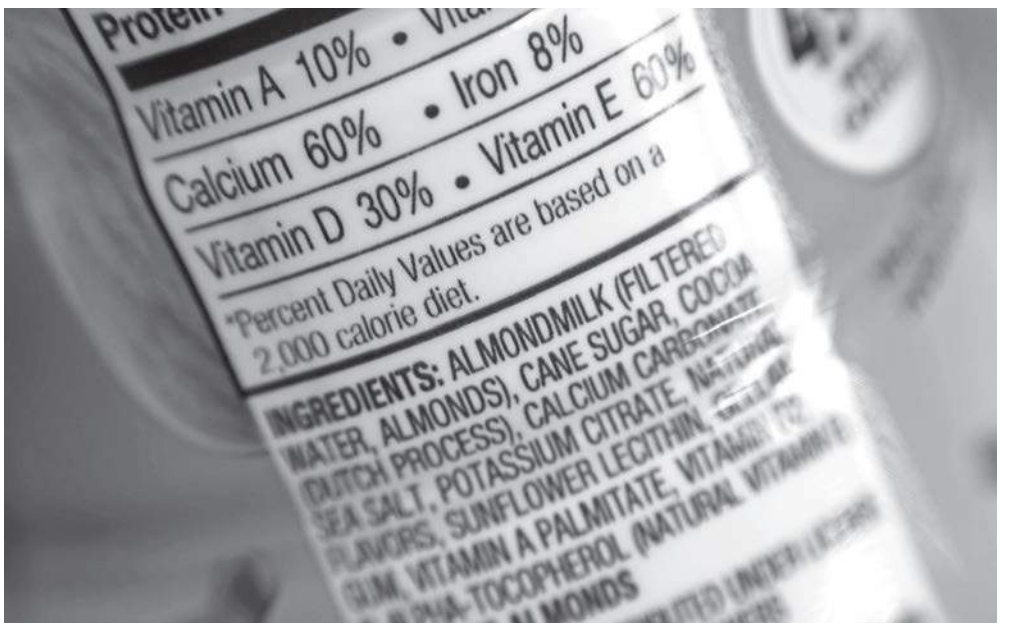
The little-known Association for Dressing and Sauces showed its might in a 2014 mayonnaise melee.

The group repeatedly complained to the FDA that an eggless spread was calling itself Just Mayo, noting that under the federal rules mayonnaise is defined as having eggs.

Hellmann's mayonnaise maker Unilever, one of the association's members, had sued Just Mayo's maker citing the same issue. That lawsuit was dropped after the company faced blowback from the vegan spread's supporters.

The dressings and sauces group wasn't the only one upset by Just Mayo's name. The CEO of the American Egg Board, which represents the egg industry, also tried unsuccessfully to get a consultant to stop the sale of Just Mayo at Whole Foods. The revelations led to an investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soon after, the egg industry group's CEO retired earlier than expected.

As for Just Mayo, the company worked out an agreement with the FDA to keep its name—with some strategic tweaks to its label to make clear it does not contain eggs.


Vitamin A 10% • Iron 8%
Calcium 60% • Vitamin E 60%
Vitamin D 30%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.
INGREDIENTS: ALMONDMILK (FILTERED WATER, ALMONDS), CANE SUGAR, COCOA (DUTCH PROCESS), CALCIUM CARBONATE, SEA SALT, POTASSIUM CITRATE, NATURAL FLAVORS, SUNFLOWER LECITHIN, VITAMIN A PALMITATE, VITAMIN D2, D-ALPHA-TOCOPHEROL (NATURAL VITAMIN E)

AP

This Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, photo shows the ingredients label for almond milk at a grocery store in New York.

STRAINING FOR YOGURT

It was a milk protein concentrate at issue in a lawsuit over Yoplait Greek.

That ingredient isn't listed in the FDA's standard of identity for yogurt. What's more, the suit said General Mills relied on the ingredient to thicken its yogurt, rather than straining it the way other Greek yogurts are made.

"Not only was it not Greek yogurt, it wasn't yogurt at all," said Brian Gudmundson, the Minnesota lawyer who filed the suit.

The case was ultimately dismissed by the judge, who said the matter would be better handled by the FDA. Gudmundson said he reached out to the agency afterward, but nothing came of it.

Yoplait Greek's maker, General Mills, says it has since made recipe changes to its yogurts and it no longer uses milk protein concentrate in Yoplait Greek. The company had also noted in legal filings that the FDA said during a seminar that milk protein concentrate could be used in yogurt.

In 2002, the presence of milk protein concentrate in Kraft Singles was also called out in a warning letter from the FDA, which noted it was not listed as an ingredient in the definition for "pasteurized process cheese food." Kraft now labels the Singles as a "pasteurized prepared cheese product."

WYNGZ, NOT WINGS

"Wyngz" scored a high-profile TV appearance not long after DiGiorno launched frozen meals with pizza and the boneless chicken pieces in 2011.

"The Colbert Show" called the spelling out as a "government-mandated" way to get around the fact that they're not made of wing meat. Colbert cited a page on the USDA's website that said the odd spelling could be used for a product that is "in the shape of a wing or a bite-size appetizer type product," but not made entirely from wing meat.

"No other misspellings are permitted," the website says.

The story behind the USDA declaration remains a bit of a mystery. DiGiorno owner Nestle said it wanted to call the boneless chicken pieces "wings," since it believes people understand that "boneless wings" are not whole wings. The company says the USDA instead proposed "wyngz."

Nestle proudly noted that it believes it was the first, and perhaps only, company to approach the USDA with an issue that led to the "wyngz" determination.

The USDA says a company had made the request to use the word to describe a product, and did not elaborate.

'COUNTERFEIT BUTTER'

It's not just soy and almond milk that have drawn the ire of the dairy industry. In 1886, dairy producers supported a federal tax on margarine, which was dubbed "counterfeit butter" by representative William Price of Wisconsin, a major dairy state. In 1902, that law was amended to increase the tax on margarine dyed to look like butter, says Ai Hisano, a business historian at the Harvard Business School.

Some states went so far as to prohibit the sale of dyed margarine, which was naturally white. Hence a vintage ad that declares Parkay margarine "Golden Yellow and ready to spread!"—with an asterisk noting, "in 26 states ."

To get around state bans, Hisano said margarine makers provided yellow solution capsules so people could dye the margarine themselves.

Fast forward to today, and food identity more broadly remains a polarizing topic.

Groups such as the dairy federation say federal standards of identity ensure people get what they expect from products labeled with terms such as "milk." Animal rights advocates who support plant-based alternatives question whether the standards of identity remain relevant. Matt Penzer, an attorney for the Humane Society of the United States, said some standards are outdated, but are being used by the established players to fend off competition and innovation.

Health & Fitness

Flaxseed, a nutritional powerhouse

Dear Mayo Clinic: I have heard that adding flaxseed to my diet could improve my health, but I know nothing about it. What's the best way to take it?

A: Flaxseed is a nutritional powerhouse. Its health benefits come from the fact that it's high in fiber and is a rich source of a plant-based type of omega-3 fatty acid called alpha-linolenic acid. Flaxseed also contains an array of other beneficial nutrients, including soluble and insoluble fiber, antioxidant phytochemicals called lignans, and numerous other vitamins and minerals.

Flaxseed commonly is used to improve digestive health or relieve constipation, but it also may help lower total blood cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL, or "bad") cholesterol levels, which may help reduce the risk of heart disease. The connection between dietary fiber in flaxseed and digestive health is fairly obvious. But when it comes to potential heart health benefits, it's not clear which components of flaxseed are most beneficial. It's possible that all components are beneficial or that they may work together.

Bowls of whole and ground flax seed with linseed oil.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Ground flaxseed is easier to digest than whole flaxseed. Whole flaxseed may pass through your intestine undigested, which means you won't get its full nutritional benefit. Flaxseed supplements are available but usually contain only one element of flaxseed nutrition, such as the alpha-linolenic acid-rich oil, thus limiting their benefit. Flaxseed oil is also available. It has more alpha-linolenic acid than ground flaxseed, but it doesn't contain all the nutrients of ground flaxseed.

The best way to incorporate flaxseed into your diet is by adding 1 to 4 tablespoons of ground flaxseed to your snacks and meals each day. Flaxseed has a light, nutty taste that can be added to any number of foods. Try mixing 1 tablespoon of ground flaxseed into yogurt, or hot or cold breakfast cereal. You could add 1 teaspoon to mayonnaise or mustard when making a sandwich. Or add ground flaxseed to a smoothie, pancake mix or baked goods.

Unripe and raw flaxseed can have toxins that may be harmful in high doses. Consider toasting, cooking or baking the flaxseed to destroy those toxins.

Flaxseed is available in bulk—whole or ground—at many grocery stores and health food stores. Whole seeds can be ground in a coffee grinder and then stored in an airtight container for several months. To preserve the taste and health benefits of flaxseed, keep it in the refrigerator, or freezer and grind it just before using. Like other sources of fiber, flaxseed should be taken with plenty of water or other fluids. Flaxseed shouldn't be taken at the same time as oral medications or other dietary supplements. As always, talk with your doctor before trying any dietary supplements.

(Mayo Clinic News Network)

Life & Style

Harvard publicly acknowledges historical ties to slavery

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Harvard University publicly acknowledged its deep ties to colonial-era slavery on Friday, casting a light on parts of its history that long remained in the shadows.

At a conference that Harvard organized to explore the relationship between colleges and slavery, university President Drew Faust said the school must confront the grimmer parts of its past before it can move forward.

"Harvard was directly complicit in slavery from the college's earliest days in the 17th century until the system of bondage ended in Massachusetts in 1783," Faust, a historian, said in her opening speech. "We look at both past and present today in the firm belief that only by coming to terms with history can we free ourselves to create a more just world."

Scholars from several universities gathered at the Cambridge campus to present research detailing how Harvard and other early American schools benefited from slavery.

At least two of Harvard's early presidents brought slaves to live and work on campus, historians said. Some of the school's major donors made their fortunes through slave labor or the slave trade. The university invested in merchant voyages trading crops produced by slaves. The 19th century Harvard scientist Louis Agassiz promoted theories about race that were used to justify slavery.

"Some of our most esteemed educational institutions are also the product of some of the most horrific violence that has ever descended on any group of people," said Sven Beckert, a Harvard history professor who has studied the school's slavery ties.

Other colleges, including the University of Virginia, used slaves to build and operate their campuses, and some were founded by wealthy merchants involved in the slave trade.

Harvard is the latest in a string of universities that have sought to confront their connections to slavery recently, often only after students demanded it.

Last month, Yale University agreed to change the name of a residential college that honored a 19th century alumnus who was a fierce supporter of slavery. Columbia University issued a report in January examining its link to slavery.

Georgetown University announced last year it will give admission preference to the descendants of 272 slaves who were sold in 1838 to save the school's finances.

At Harvard, the topic reached a crescendo last year after students demanded the law school abandon its coat of arms, which was taken from the family crest of a slave-owner who helped found the school.

In the car with Alison Krauss, anything goes music-wise

NEW YORK (AP)—Alison Krauss has a surprising rule about road trips: The driver does not command the stereo.

"Whenever I have young people in the car, they're always in control of the music," said Krauss, who has more Grammy Awards than any other woman. "It's like sharing yourself."

That rule she learned from her very patient father, who once let her listen to the LP "Cold on the Shoulder" by Tony Rice for 13 hours straight during a road trip when she was a dreamy pre-teen staring out the window.

"He never said a word about it. He never complained," she said. "He knew something was going on. There was no judgment. There was no judgment passed on that I shouldn't have been loving something that much."

Krauss has passed that open-minded lesson to the next generation. Her son, Sam, has inherited her good ear and has over the years introduced her to such bands as Snow Patrol and Phoenix.

"As soon as he showed up, he was in charge of the music in the car," she said, laughing. "When we deny what young people are listening to, we're really denying a big part of them. There's something about it that's speaking to them."

Krauss remerges this month with "Windy City ," her first solo album since 1999, a collection of 10 classic country covers that was shaped—not surprisingly—by road trips with her son at night through Nashville, Tennessee.

After she and songwriter-producer Buddy Cannon had whittled down the final list to songs by such artists as Willie Nelson, Bill Monroe, Brenda Lee and the Osborne Brothers, Krauss and 17-year-old Sam drove around listening to the originals.

"He goes, 'Oh, boy. Mom, I don't think you better touch those Brenda Lee songs.' I was like, 'Yeah, you think?' He goes, 'Whoa. Those are so good,'" said Krauss, 45, laughing. "I'm like, 'Thank you, honey.'"

Krauss thankfully overruled him, recording both Lee's "Losing You" and "All Alone Am I" for the new album, which critics have warmly embraced. Entertainment Weekly said the CD "enforces her legacy as one of American music's standout talents," while The Associated Press' only quibble was the album was too short.

Cannon came away deeply impressed by Krauss' skill as one of country's best interpreters. "I've worked with other people who are real critical about the songs that they pick, but she's different. She's just a different animal," he said. "I can't say I've worked with anybody who, from my perception, analyzes the song as much as she does."

Subtle (very) 'gay moment' in new Disney film generates buzz

AP

This image released by Disney shows Josh Gad as Le Fou, left, and Luke Evans as Gaston in a scene from, "Beauty and the Beast," opening nationwide on March 17.

To be clear: "Brokeback Mountain," this isn't.

The so-called "gay moment" in Disney's new live-action version of "Beauty and the Beast" is subtle—so subtle that one could easily miss it with an ill-timed sneeze or glance away from the screen. And it may sail over the heads of young viewers.

But the cast and director say it is indeed a gay moment—one they're proud of. And advocates are calling it a big step forward for Disney and for youth entertainment.

Mere word of it was also enough to lead one Alabama drive-in theater to cancel plans to show the film—apparently without having seen it, because it doesn't open nationwide until March 17.

The scene in question involves the character of LeFou (Josh Gad), the timid and lovable sidekick to the preening villain Gaston (Luke Evans). Without spoiling too much, it's safe to say that LeFou spends much of the film in Gaston's thrall, and toward the end also has a moment—a few seconds, really—where the same-sex theme is more overt.

At the film's Los Angeles premiere on Thursday evening, Gad said he was "very proud" of the scene.

"(Director) Bill Condon did an amazing job of giving us an opportunity to create a version of LeFou that isn't like the original ... but that makes him more human and makes him a wonderfully complex character to some extent," he said. "And there's a moment at the end of the film that I don't want to ruin ... because I want the surprise to be intact, but I'm very proud of it. I think it's an incredible moment and it's subtle, but I think it's effective."

Condon suggested that descriptions of LeFou as the first Disney gay character went too far. "I keep saying it's more like the first gay moment," he said. "Because I think it's a very fluid character." The director added: "You can't help but wonder in his adoration of Gaston ... (is there) something more going on?"

The length of the scene—or scenes, since LeFou's fluid orientation is hinted at elsewhere—is not what's important, said Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, the LGBTQ media advocacy group.

"It's a wonderful step forward," she said. "And this is incredibly important for the youth of today. They need to see themselves reflected in the media they consume. More and more, as studios want to appeal to youth audiences, they're going to have to include LGBTQ story lines and characters."

Ellis noted that in the annual survey that GLAAD puts together on LGBTQ inclusion in movies, "we have struggled year after year to find any content in major studio films. We're usually the punching bag or the laughingstock. So this is an enormous step forward for us."

In the past, many have speculated on what they see as "coded" gay characters, or winking references to gay characters or themes in Disney and other youth-oriented films. Ellis said the difference here is that "we're moving from coded, where you have to put together the pieces, to this being in the spotlight ... It shows the direction America is moving in."

A Facebook page that apparently belongs to the Henagar Drive-In Theatre in Henagar, Alabama, announced that the theater won't be showing the film as planned because its operators are "first and foremost Christians" and "will not compromise on what the Bible teaches."

"If we cannot take our 11-year-old granddaughter and 8-year-old grandson to see a movie we have no business watching it," the message said. Theater operators did not immediately respond to emails or phone messages to confirm the Facebook posting. The theater's website continued on Friday to say the film was coming in March.

Trump: Not to blame for 'sad end' to 'Celebrity Apprentice'

NEW YORK (AP)—In typical Donald Trump fashion, the president tweeted Saturday that his replacement at the "The New Celebrity Apprentice" reality television show is to blame for its poor ratings and not, as Arnold Schwarzenegger says, Trump's continued involvement with the show.

Schwarzenegger, who replaced Trump as host of the show while the president remained its executive producer, announced Friday he's through. He said even if he were asked again, he wouldn't want to host the show.

"With Trump being involved in the show, people have a bad taste and don't want to participate as a spectator or as a sponsor or in any other way support the show," he said in an interview with the Empire website. "It's a very divisive period now, and I think this show got caught up in all that division."

But Trump, who has taunted Schwarzenegger for the show's poor performance in the ratings and even mocked him during an address at the National Prayer Breakfast, tweeted in response Saturday: "Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't voluntarily leaving the Apprentice, he was fired by his bad (pathetic) ratings, not by me. Sad end to great show."

The show wrapped up its 15th season last month. It averaged fewer than 5 million viewers per episode. That was lower than any other incarnation except for a 2010 Trump-hosted edition without celebrities, and the most poorly-rated edition among the youthful viewers NBC cares most about, the Nielsen company said.

NBC had no immediate comment about whether the show would return with a new host. The former California governor said he wouldn't mind working with NBC and producer Mark Burnett again "on a show that doesn't have this baggage."

Shannon Coulter, co-founder of the #GrabYourWallet Trump protest, agreed with Schwarzenegger. The effort aims to spur consumer boycotts of companies doing business with the Trump family, including sponsors of "Apprentice."

"My impression is that 'The New Celebrity Apprentice's' poor performance has everything to do with Donald's continued presence and the accompanying 'baggage' Mr. Schwarzenegger mentioned," she said in an emailed comment. "We applaud Mr. Schwarzenegger's decision to leave the show and to distance himself from the toxic Trump brand."

After Schwarzenegger's debut in January, Trump took to Twitter to report the show had been swamped "in comparison to the ratings machine, DJT"—using his initials.

Schwarzenegger shot back on social media that he hoped Trump would work for the American people as aggressively as he did for his ratings. The actor, like Trump a Republican, did not endorse Trump and said during last fall's campaign that he would not vote for him.

AP

This Dec. 9, 2016 image released by NBC shows Arnold Schwarzenegger, the new boss of "The New Celebrity Apprentice," at a press junket in Universal City, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Natalie Portman welcomes 2nd child, a daughter named Amalia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Natalie Portman has given birth to a healthy baby girl. A representative for the Oscar-winning actress said Friday that Portman and husband, Benjamin Millepied, welcomed daughter Amalia on Feb. 22. This is the second child for Portman and Millepied, who wed in 2012. Their son, Aleph, is 5. Portman, 35, was celebrated during Hollywood's recent awards season for her starring role in «Jackie.» She was nominated for best actress at Sunday›s Academy Awards, but she did not attend the ceremony. Millepied, 39, is a dancer and choreographer who worked on the film "Black Swan." He is the founder and director of L.A. Dance Project, a contemporary dance company that works with emerging and established artists.

Emma Watson, Ellen team up to pull adult nanny prank

How would you like to be Emma Watson›s adult nanny? A woman on the television show «Ellen» thought she was interviewing for the job, but the TV show host and the «Harry Potter» actress were actually playing a prank. Ellen DeGeneres was inside her studio telling Watson, who appeared to be in a dressing room somewhere, what to say. At one point, DeGeneres says and Watson, who stars in the remake of "Beauty and the Beast" repeats: "I don't need you to help me potty"—drawing laughter and confusion from the woman. After a few more minutes of chicanery, Watson and DeGeneres finally reveal the prank to the befuddled but relieved woman.

One Direction›s Louis Tomlinson arrested in airport scuffle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One Direction star Louis Tomlinson has been arrested for allegedly attacking a photographer at Los Angeles International Airport, an incident the singer's lawyer described as «provoked» by paparazzi. The incident happened Friday after Tomlinson, arriving on a flight with his girlfriend, Eleanor Calder, asked a photographer to stop filming. After an alleged scuffle, the photographer made a citizen›s arrest on Tomlinson. Police responded and took Tomlinson into custody. He was later released, and a court date was set for March 29. Martin Singer, his lawyer, in a statement said the paparazzi "provoked and caused the altercation" and that Tomlinson came to his girlfriend›s defense after she was being «attacked.» One Direction, which formed in 2010, has had hits including "Drag Me Down," "Story of My Life," "What Makes You Beautiful," "Perfect" and "Best Song Ever."

Russia: Sarah Jessica Parker can meet envoy if she wants

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's foreign ministry says it would be happy to play matchmaker between American actress Sarah Jessica Parker and Moscow's ambassador to the United States. Parker on Thursday made a post on Instagram showing her typing at a computer, captioned: "I couldn't help but wonder ... had the Russian ambassador been meeting with everyone but me?" Questions have arisen in Congress and the media about Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak's meetings with members of the Trump administration. On Friday, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mara Zakharova said on the ministry's English-language account : "If #SarahJessicaParker desperately wants to meet Russian Ambassador to US -anything is possible. Sergey Ivanovich will be happy."

Another award for Viola Davis: Harvard 'Artist of the Year'

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Fresh from her best supporting actress Oscar win for her role in "Fences," Viola Davis is at Harvard University to receive the 2017 Artist of the Year Award from the Harvard Foundation. Davis is attending the Cultural Rhythms Festival on Saturday. She briefly came on stage before taking a seat to watch a series of cultural musical performances by students. In addition to the Oscar, Davis received the Critics' Choice, Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and British Academy of Films and Television Arts awards for her portrayal of Rose Maxson in the film adaptation of "Fences," an August Wilson play. Davis also won a Tony Award for the 2010 Broadway revival of the play. Previous winners of the Harvard award include Quincy Jones, Andy Garcia, Matt Damon, Salma Hayek and Shakira.

Dear Abby

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dog is still bone of contention years after couple breaks up

DEAR ABBY: My ex-boyfriend and I broke up two years ago. We were together for nearly three years. A year into our relationship, we rescued a puppy. We broke up when she was 2. Since then, we have shared her on and off. This arrangement worked fine because we have both been single.

I am now in a new relationship and feel that my ex and I should cut ties. We recently had a falling out, but he still wants to share the dog "until she is no longer in the picture."

Abby, I don't feel that it's feasible for us to continue sharing our dog for the next 12 to 15 years. My ex has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and I know she helps him. However, I feel like I can provide a better home for her and give her more attention. How do we decide who gets to keep the dog?

STILL IN THE PICTURE

DEAR STILL IN THE PICTURE: You have a new boyfriend. Your ex has PTSD and needs her more than you do. Unless the animal was somehow mistreated when she was with him, let him have her.

DEAR ABBY: I work as a medical receptionist for a busy private practice. We get a lot of patients from other countries, and English is not their primary language. Speaking to these patients over the phone is often very difficult. How can I ask nicely for patients to constantly repeat themselves? I need to make sure I have the correct information so the doctor can treat the patient properly.

RECEPTIONIST IN MARYLAND

DEAR RECEPTIONIST: Ask your employer how he or she wants those calls handled. There is no crime in repeating and re-repeating important information to be sure it is right. If the patient has a family member who accompanies him/her to appointments, perhaps it can be arranged that that person call the doctor's office to convey any necessary information.

DEAR ABBY: For my birthday my husband bought me an expensive designer purse. It was a dream come true to own this purse and I love it. My problem is it's so expensive that I'm embarrassed to wear it around in public. I don't want to look like a show-off. I don't know why I care, and probably most people don't care about what kind of purse I'm carrying. Why can't I enjoy the gift from my husband?

SECRET IN THE CLOSET

DEAR SECRET: Not everyone is comfortable displaying the fact they have the kind of disposable income that affords them the ability to buy luxury goods. There are multiple reasons for this. Some women don't want the attention, others feel guilty that they have the money while their friends do not, some are afraid that if they "flash" it will excite jealousy, and others fear for their safety.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

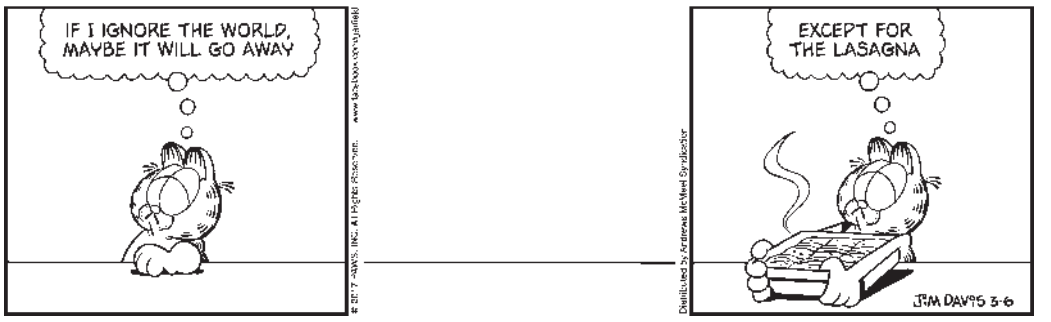
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES, LOOK! THERE'S A LITTLE RACCOON ON THE GROUND.
IS IT ALIVE?
I THINK SO, BUT HE'S HURT. SEE, HE'S HARDLY BREATHING.
BETTER NOT TOUCH HIM IF HE'S HURT.
YEAH. YOU WAIT HERE AND GUARD HIM. I'LL RUN AND GET MOM.
I SURE HOPE SHE CAN HELP.
OF COURSE SHE CAN! YOU DON'T GET TO BE MOM IF YOU CAN'T FIX EVERYTHING JUST RIGHT.
WATTERSON

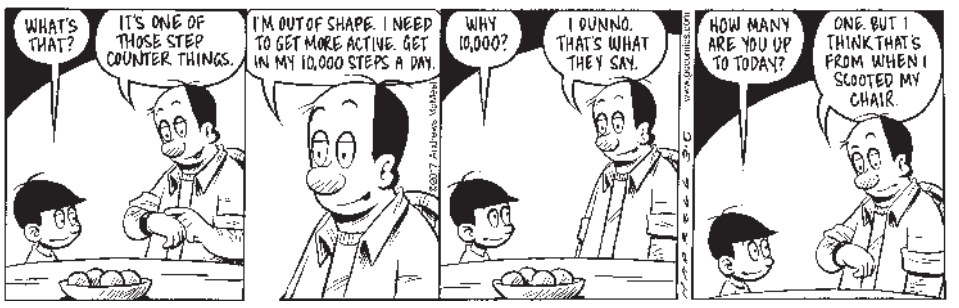
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



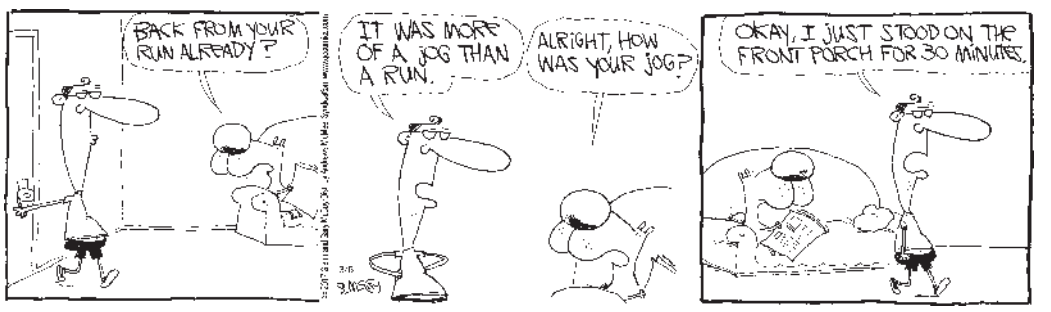
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S ONE OF THOSE STEP COUNTER THINGS.
I'M OUT OF SHAPE. I NEED TO GET MORE ACTIVE. GET IN MY 10,000 STEPS A DAY.
WHY 10,000?
I DUNNO. THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
HOW MANY ARE YOU UP TO TODAY?
ONE. BUT I THINK THAT'S FROM WHEN I SCOOTED MY CHAIR.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BACK FROM YOUR RUN ALREADY?
IT WAS MORE OF A JOG THAN A RUN.
ALRIGHT, HOW WAS YOUR JOG?
OKAY, I JUST STOOD ON THE FRONT PORCH FOR 30 MINUTES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actress Moore
5 Part of TNT
8 Long story
12 November event
14 Hertz rival
15 Caterpillar's food
16 Electric unit
17 Cyclades island
18 Kampala's land
20 Bistros
23 Drain blockage
24 Winged
25 Allergy inducer
28 Speed (up)
29 Temptress
30 Baseball's Ripken
32 Sushi wrap
34 Sciences' partner
35 Bygone days
36 Tipped off, with "in"
37 Ms. Ladd
40 Solidify
41 Quasimodo's creator
42 1987 Meryl Streep movie
47 Country singer Jackson
48 Made tidy
49 Bankrolls
50 Pantheon member
51 Oodles

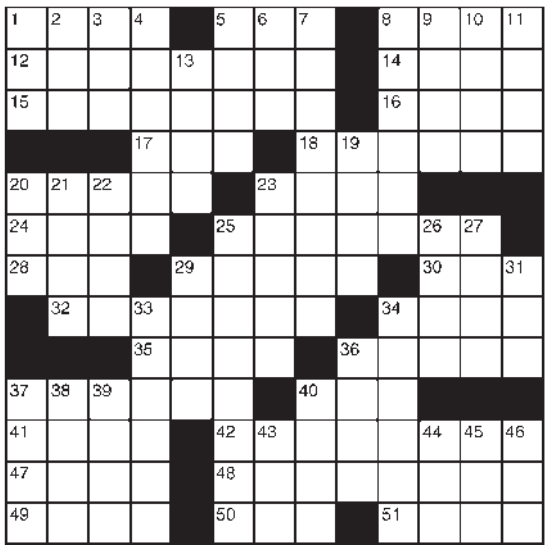
DOWN

1 Rep.'s rival
2 Yalie
3 Singer Tormé
4 More gross
5 Father's Day gifts
6 Sturgeon product
7 Pampered
8 Wild
9 Bard's river
10 Coat with gold
11 "The Thin Man" dog
13 Pairs
19 Prom dress
20 Lincoln or Ford
21 Pub orders
22 Top choice, for short
23 Insertion mark
25 German wine
26 Beige
27 Social appointment
29 Vacillate
31 Leary's drug
33 Cooks' garments
34 Totally wrong
36 Penny
37 Tobacco plug
38 Luau dance
39 "Zounds!"
40 Incite
43 Old Oldsmobile
44 Rock's Brian
45 Still, in verse
46 Driller's degree

Solution time: 28 mins.

A	N	G	■	G	R	I	P	■	S	L	U	M
L	O	U	■	O	A	R	S	■	H	■	L	O
S	W	E	E	T	P	E	A	■	R	E	N	O
■	■	S	W	A	T	■	■	D	■	V	A	N
A	S	S	E	T	■	I	T	E	M	■	■	■
S	O	W	S	■	S	N	O	W	P	L	O	W
I	S	H	■	I	O	A	U	Y	■	O	V	A
S	A	C	P	A	U	L	O	■	S	L	A	V
■	■	■	H	O	L	L	■	H	■	L	L	Y
C	A	P	O	S	■	■	M	A	L	■	■	■
A	I	A	N	■	S	T	E	N	O	P	A	D
B	E	R	G	■	A	V	E	C	■	O	B	I
S	F	T	S	■	C	A	K	Y	■	P	E	G

Last Friday's Answer 3-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shaquille O'Neal, 45; Connie Britton, 50; D.L. Hughley, 54; Rob Reiner, 70.

Happy Birthday: Gather information and use it to stabilize your personal and professional status. Make choices that promote your values and resonate with others. Don't allow vanity or fear to stop you from reaching out, standing up and taking notice of what needs to be done. Be the conduit for change in your life and in your community. Your numbers are 1, 6, 15, 21, 27, 30, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Stay focused on what you can accomplish. If you try to do too much, you will fall short of your goals. Partnerships can be established or taken to the next level. A passionate approach to life and learning will help you excel. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Aim to get things done and to lessen your burdens. It's important to assess your friendships and consider who is heading down a similar path. Secrets are best kept that way until you feel comfortable enough to share personal information. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Keep your feelings locked up until you know exactly what someone has in mind. Listen carefully and only take part if you are certain you will not be taken for granted. Ulterior motives are prevalent. Physical improvements will turn out well. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Put your emotions aside and stay focused on the chores, responsibilities and creative endeavors that need to be finished. If you take on too much, you will end up accomplishing little. Don't let temptation come between you and a chance to succeed. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Don't try to escape from reality. Get a firm grip on what it is you feel destined to do, and get moving. Personal improvements will be a good place to start. Celebrate new beginnings with someone you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Make conversation and build stronger relationships with the people you feel you have something in common with. A creative project will put you one step closer to gaining respect and personal satisfaction. Follow your instincts and you will reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Observe what's going on around you. Make subtle changes to the way you do things and try your best to keep the peace. You'll have to dodge anyone looking for a fight. Personal alterations are favored. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Play to win. Get into conversations that will encourage growth and positive changes. Put some muscle behind your plans and progress will be made. An entertaining pastime will change your way of thinking. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Take charge of your life and do something about the way you live. Put some muscle behind your plans and initiate what you want to see unfold. Love and romance are highlighted and will enhance your life. Dismiss evasive rhetoric. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Pay more attention to what others are doing or saying. You may end up being the subject of someone's gossip. Your best recourse is to leave no room for error, share little personal information and do things by yourself. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Get involved and be willing to do your own thing. The stars are aligned and the only thing holding you back is yourself. Personal improvements will highlight your day. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Be the storm that precipitates reform. Use your clout, your voice and your physical stamina to make a difference and help the little guy. Use your imagination and innovative ideas will sprout. Don't give up. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, endearing and mindful. You are forceful and perceptive.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			3	6		2	
6		7						4
			5	4			8	
4			3		1	2		
9		3				8		1
		1	8		5			7
	2			5	4			
7						9		8
	4		7	1			5	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	6	7	4	9	2	8	3	5
5	4	9	7	3	8	1	6	2
3	8	2	5	6	1	7	4	9
2	1	6	8	4	5	3	9	7
8	3	4	9	2	7	5	1	6
7	9	5	6	1	3	2	8	4
4	5	1	2	8	9	6	7	3
6	7	3	1	5	4	9	2	8
9	2	8	3	7	6	4	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARE YOU A BLUESTOCKING? Solution: 5 letters

I	S	S	B	R	A	I	N	N	O	D	N	O	L	A
N	N	R	N	L	E	N	O	P	A	H	C	Q	A	D
F	O	T	O	A	U	B	O	O	K	S	R	U	D	U
O	D	I	E	H	I	E	M	O	R	E	E	Y	Y	L
R	E	E	S	L	T	R	S	E	Y	I	T	L	T	T
M	G	P	T	S	L	U	O	C	M	Z	C	R	I	N
A	E	E	A	A	U	E	A	T	E	Z	A	A	S	E
L	L	R	T	R	C	C	C	E	S	O	R	L	R	N
W	I	I	U	P	O	U	S	T	N	I	A	O	E	I
O	V	T	S	V	L	D	D	I	U	P	H	H	V	M
R	I	T	D	T	S	A	Y	E	D	A	C	C	I	O
S	R	A	U	S	L	L	I	K	S	N	L	S	N	R
T	P	R	E	O	S	U	I	N	E	G	R	O	U	P
E	E	R	O	L	I	T	E	R	A	R	Y	R	A	M
D	D	W	O	M	E	N	F	I	E	L	D	I	N	G

©2017 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/6

Adult, Advocacy, Attire, Authors, Blues, Books, Brain, Chapone, Character, Cultured, Discussion, Dress, Educated, Fielding, French, Genius, Group, Historians, Informal, Intellectual, Lady, Literary, London, Mary, Member, More, Parody, Piozzi, Plain, Privileged, Prominent, Scholarly, Skills, Status, University, Women, Wool, Worsted

Last Friday's Answer: Flavedo

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
dba M & R Construction

(3) Heavy Equipment Operator
Can expertly operate:
- **Boom Truck**
- **Low Boy**
- **Excavator**

(1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Salary Negotiable

Please call or visit our officeTel. # 322-1558 or 287-1698
Location: Lower Base, Saipan

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Sales Representative

Required Qualifications:
- U.S. accredited Bachelor's Degree in: Medical Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry or related science or medical field.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of Sales of pharmaceuticals, dialysis supplies and equipment, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a good command of the English language. Non-native speakers may be requested to present satisfactory TOEFL or IELTS scores.
  Experienced in maintaining and monitoring inventories for medical supplies and equipment, dialysis supplies and equipment, and pharmaceuticals.
- Experienced in handling medical equipment and supplies, dialysis equipment and supplies, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Capable of preparing and presenting weekly sales reports, monthly inventory reports, and market analysis reports using Quickbooks 2013 or other similar accounting software.
- Must be available to work during nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license

Interested applicants may email a copy of their resume and police clearance to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net or fax to 670-235-5418.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE – HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY & LUBRICANTS

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful Sales record. Preferably with an Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service is required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook. Must provide own reliable transport and must be able to meet monthly sales targets. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries an advantage. Available to work evenings, holidays or weekends as needed.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by March 14, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, Part Time (5)
Responsible for managing the customer's experience by identifying customer's needs and recommending or promoting the appropriate merchandise. Sales Associates also process all modes of payment using the POS System and help maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the boutique by maintaining the cleanliness of the store (showcases and displays).

Requires: High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales and must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com . To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than **March 15, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks will be required prior to employment.

Coral Ocean Golf Resort

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
URGENT HIRING!!!

(1) Accountant — Salary : $7.25 to $8.75
Bachelor Degree in Accounting or equivalent. Have at least 2 to 4 years accounting work experience in hotel/golf course industry or equivalent. Have knowledge of economic and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, FS, bank analysis and reporting of financial data. Excellent in mathematical and communication skills. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners and right conduct. Knowledge in different accounting software application. Must know how to operate Peachtree Program and must be computer literate. Must be able to work under pressure and meet deadlines. Company may require a written accounting examination.

(1) Automotive Mechanic — Salary : $7.00 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one or two years of working experienced in full range skilled repair and maintenance on automobiles, small engines such as golf course equipment, heavy equipment, and other mechanical and electrical equipment. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting, and lifting.

(5) Cooks — Salary : $7.00 to $8.00
Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Must be able to obtain a Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(10) Housekeepers — Salary Range : $6.55 to $7.15
High School Diploma or equivalent. Few months to one year related work experienced. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrival. Must be able to understand and follow instructions and out task in order and willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting and lifting. Experienced in Hotel Industry for the position is a plus. Computer literacy is preferred but not required. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

(2) Lifeguard — Salary: $6.55 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least from a few month to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and CPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard or must be able to acquire Lifeguard Certification. He/She must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to clean and sanitize the area. Posses a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun. Company may require swimming test.

Suwaso Corporation dba Coral Ocean Golf Resort would like to invite all qualified US workers to send/submit their resume/application form to Marge.Binuya@eland.co.kr. Deadline of submission is on March 10, 2016 at 1:00 PM. Provide at least two recommendation letter and proof of certification for the position, if needed. All interested applicant must be willing to work in a flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Application form is also available in the hotel lobby and HR Office. Incomplete application may not be considered for assessment. Fill up the form completely prior submission. No phone calls please.

Salty Saipan Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) General Maintenance
Minimum Qualifications: High school graduate; one (1) year of paid experience as a General Building Structure Maintenance worker in position(s) requiring knowledge of rough and finish carpentry, plumbing, interior and exterior painting and electrician skills; one (1) year of experience as a commercial cleaner, preferably in hotel, lodge or single structure housekeeping setting(s). Experience with use of pesticides and fertilizers and how to avoid the hazardous affect of common chemicals used for building maintenance and repair.
Duties: Ensures that a newly constructed building structure and its surrounding area are maintained in a clean and orderly condition and good repair. Cleans rooms and yard areas; strips and applies wax to floors; shampoos carpets; washes and paints interior and exterior walls; diagnoses and cures building plumbing, electrical and carpentry repair needs. Assesses and completes laundry needs. Operates water blaster and bush whacker.

(1) Cook
Knowledgeable in Western, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Filipino Cuisine. At least one (1) year work-related experience. Certified Graduate from a Culinary Institute. Drug Testing & Police Clearance Required.

Applicants must be able to work flexible hours i.e. holidays and weekends.

If interested, please send resume to herenuisong@gmail.com

AM Machine Shop & Car Airconditioning
(3) Machinist - must have 3 years experience. Knowledgeable in Modifying & Fabrication any parts Metallic & Non Metallic

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) WAREHOUSE MAN
(2) FOOD SERVICE WORKER
Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office at Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road)

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Secretaries & Administrative Assistant
- Knowledge of Administrative & Clerical procedures & systems, Intuit Quickbooks Software.
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- Knowledge of installation & configuration of computer hardware and its operating system.

Apply in person and bring resume. No phone call please.
P.O. Box 501921, Saipan MP 96950

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Agent, full-time (1)
High school diploma or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Agent, part-time (4)
High school diploma or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Interested applicants may obtain application forms from the Front Office of Century Tours, Inc., located at the ground floor of the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan. Offices are open Sunday-Saturday from 9 AM-6 PM. Worker's compensation provided. Applications and/or resumes may also be emailed to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com until **March 15, 2017**. Incumbents must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.
Drug testing is required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position:

Accountants (2)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

In inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions

(1) Supervisor, Carpentry
2 years experience as a carpenter in a supervisory level is required. Must have strong organizational and time management skills. Must be able to work under pressure and be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is March 6, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Food & Beverage Manager (1)
Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred plus minimum of 3 years experience as an Assistant F&B Manager or F&B Manager capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Room Reservations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Preferably college degree and must have 2 years of experience in Sales and Marketing or Tourism. Must know how to handle the room situations in case of over sell or over bookings, need to be familiar to hotel and agent policy, cut off days, agent room blockage and cancellations policy. Know how to protect the hotel, agent contract and their privacy. Must have excellent communication skills, good quality of customer service, and multi tasking skills are a must. Team player is a must. Capable of decision making and can work under pressure. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Guest Relations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Minimum 2 to 4 years supervisory work experience in Front Office of a hotel. High school diploma or general education degree; or 3 to 6 months related experience and /or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Guest Relations Agent (4)
Qualifications: Preferable some basic knowledge of travel/hotel industry. Minimum 3 to 6 months related work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least 2 to 4 years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Knowledge of various international menu/dishes. Knowledge of techniques and equipment for planting, growing, and harvesting food products (both plant and animal) for consumption, including storage/handling techniques. Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accountant (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accounting Manager (1)
Qualifications: College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years' experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Airport) (5)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Customer Service Agent (Aircraft) (4)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years' experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 16, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Sales & Marketing Manager
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (4)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Accounting Clerk
High School graduate, GED, Associates degree or equivalent with at least 2-3 years bookkeeping or clerical accounting work experience in freight forwarding operation, sales or service related work. Associate Degree in Accounting, Auditing, Business Management or Finance an advantage. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Word Processor and Spreadsheet; and proficient with Accounting software such as SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) system, ERP system, and HR2 system).

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience.
Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
be submitted not later than 5:00 pm, Friday, March 10, 2017.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Dragic leads Miami Heat to win over undermanned Cleveland

AP
Miami Heat's Goran Dragic (7) drives to the basket as Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyle Korver defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 4, 2017, in Miami.

MIAMI (AP)—Goran Dragic scored 23 points, Hassan Whiteside had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and the Miami Heat beat the undermanned Cleveland Cavaliers 120-92 on Saturday night.

Tyler Johnson added 17 points for the Heat, who won for the 18th time in their last 22 games.

LeBron James and Kyrie Irving sat out for Cleveland, both getting the night off to rest. The Cavaliers fell to 0-5 this season when James isn't in the lineup, and continue to be without two other would-be starters in Kevin Love and J.R. Smith - both still recovering from surgeries. Newly signed center Andrew Bogut also wasn't with the Cavaliers.

Channing Frye scored 21 points and Kyle Korver added 15 for the Cavaliers, who have lost their last 12 games in Miami. This one was largely drama-free until the final seconds, when players from both sides did a little shouting back and forth, with Miami's Dion Waiters—a former Cavs guard—among those most upset.

Both benches spilled onto the court as time expired, though everyone retreated relatively quickly. The teams play again Monday in Cleveland.

The Heat remained 1 1/2 games behind Detroit for the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference race. Cleveland's lead over idle Boston for the No. 1 spot in the East was trimmed to 2 1/2 games.

Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said this wouldn't be the last time James sits before the end of the regular season. He's averaging nearly 38 minutes per game, and has played more minutes—by far—than anyone else in the NBA over the last seven seasons, in large part because James keeps leading his teams to the NBA Finals.

He's been to the last six of those, and the Cavs want to make sure he's fresh enough come playoff time to have the best possible chance at No. 7.

"He understands the big picture and what we're trying to accomplish," Lue said. "The guy's played so many minutes over the course of his career, and going to six straight Finals he has to take some rest at times."

A 13-3 run by Miami to close the half sent the Heat into the locker room with a 67-51 lead, and they kept pulling away in the third. Dragic had 10 points in that quarter and the lead swelled to 101-75 going into the fourth.

Spurs 97, Timberwolves 90, OT

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and 10 rebounds as San Antonio overcame a listless start to beat Minnesota and wrap up its 20th straight playoff spot.

The Spurs won in overtime for the second straight night to extend their winning streak to seven.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, and Pau Gasol had 17 points and eight rebounds in his fifth straight game as a reserve. The Spurs outscored the Timberwolves 35-20 in the final quarter and overtime.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota. The Timberwolves had not played since Wednesday night in Utah and had won four of five.

Clippers 101, Bulls 91

In Chicago, reserve Jamal Crawford scored 25 points and took over down the stretch to carry Los Angeles over Chicago.

Crawford, a former Bulls guard who won his third Sixth Man of the Year award last season, scored 10 points in a 14-7 spurt in the fourth quarter as the Clippers won for just the second time in six games.

Chris Paul added 17 points and Blake Griffin had 16 for Los Angeles, which lost in Milwaukee on Friday and had fallen to the fifth spot in the Western Conference standings.

Jimmy Butler scored 16 points for the Bulls, who had won five of their last six games.

Rockets 123, Grizzlies 108

In Houston, James Harden scored 33 points and Clint Capela had 24 to help Houston build a big lead in the third quarter and coast to a victory over Memphis.

Eric Gordon added 18 points and made six of Houston's 18 3-pointers in the victory that tied the season series with the Grizzlies at 2-2.

Houston led by 15 to start the fourth quarter and was up 109-89 after an alley-oop dunk by Capela midway through the quarter. The Grizzlies resorted to the Hack-a-Shaq technique of intentionally fouling Capela soon after that, but he made eight of 10 attempts before going to the bench with Houston up by 16 with about 3 ½ minutes left.

Mike Conley had 23 points for the Grizzlies and JaMychal Green added 20.

Bucks 101, Raptors 94

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton scored a season-high 24 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 21 and Milwaukee beat Toronto.

Malcolm Brogdon had 17 and Spencer Hawes finished with 16 off the bench for Milwaukee, which halted a seven-game losing streak to Toronto.

Serge Ibaka had 19 points and Cory Joseph 14 for Toronto.

The Bucks entered the fourth quarter with a 13-point lead but the Raptors got within four about halfway through the period. Back-to-back baskets by Antetokounmpo put Milwaukee back in control and the Raptors got no closer than seven points the rest of the way.

After ice-cold shooting in the first quarter, the Bucks scored 41 points in the second to grab a 53-42 lead at the half. Hawes had 14 points in the period.

Hornets 112, Nuggets 102

In Denver, Kemba Walker scored 27 points, Nicolas Batum had 21 points and eight assists, and Charlotte beat Denver.

Marvin Williams had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who wrapped up a seven-game road trip with an impressive victory.

The Nuggets came out flat after two impressive road wins in the middle of the week. Nikola Jokic led them with 31 points and 14 rebounds, while Danilo Gallinari scored 22 points.

Charlotte took the lead for good with a 17-0 run late in the first quarter and then scored the first 10 points of the third to go up 71-52.

Pistons 136, 76ers 106

In Philadelphia, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 13 of his 26 points in Detroit's dominating third quarter, and the Pistons set a season high for points.

The Pistons, holding the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, had lost two of three, including Wednesday's 109-86 drubbing at New Orleans that resulted in coach Stan Van Gundy calling out point guard Reggie Jackson.

Van Gundy told reporters Friday that he wanted to see Jackson play with more energy and contemplated starting backup point guard Ish Smith over Jackson on Saturday. Jackson, though, did make the start and scored 21 points.

Marcus Morris scored 22 points, Tobias Harris added 20 and Andre Drummond had 14 points, 14 rebounds, four steals and three blocks, one game after getting ejected for swatting the Pelicans' Tim Frazier in the back of the head.

Blazers, 130, Nets 116

In Portland, Oregon, C.J. McCollum scored 31 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers past the Brooklyn Nets.

Al-Farouq Aminu made five 3-pointers and finished with 23 points off the bench as well as a team-high six rebounds for Portland, which won consecutive games for the first time since a three-game win streak from Jan. 21-27.

The Blazers went 16 of 25 (64 percent) on 3-pointers and shot 57 percent from the field overall.

With its win and Denver's loss to Charlotte on Saturday night, the Blazers moved within 1 1/2 games of the Nuggets for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Brook Lopez led the Nets with 26 points.

Not so golden Warriors: Curry slumping, team skidding

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Curry screamed, turned and kicked the nearby wall, disgusted by another missed jumper. It was just practice and most of his other shots went in, so there was little reason for concern.

But if he keeps misfiring in games and the Golden State Warriors keep losing them, there might be.

With Curry in a rare shooting slump and the Warriors on an even rarer losing streak, the NBA leaders are facing adversity—at least by their standards—as they visit the New York Knicks on Sunday.

Curry is 4 for 31 from 3-point range through three games of the Warriors' road trip, with most of the last two games coming after Kevin Durant was injured. The Warriors found a way to win the opener in Philadelphia—when Curry missed all 11 attempts behind the arc—but they then dropped games in Washington and Chicago to end their NBA-record streak of regular-season games without consecutive losses at 146.

"We haven't lost two in row in a long time obviously and we've been in a rut on this trip in general," coach Steve Kerr said after practice Saturday at a court in the Manhattan building where the players' union is headquartered. "We're not making shots, but we're also well aware that this is just a blip on the radar screen. We'll be fine and I'm not concerned at all. We just have to play better."

Klay Thompson is also struggling, and the Splash Brothers really dried up Thursday, going a combined 3 for 22 on 3-pointers in a 94-87 loss in Chicago. But the Warriors don't seem stressed and don't think defenses are crowding the guards more than normal without having to worry about Durant.

"We've had plenty of openings and creating decent shots, just haven't gone in in the last three games," Curry said. "But that happens as you go through a long season, you just have to fight through it and not let it affect how you play. Obviously if we make a couple more shots in Chicago the game's a little different. Philly it was a struggle but we found a way to win, so just got to stay on the mission of letting the offense create good things for us and still have confidence to knock down shots."

The Warriors were held to their lowest point total of the season Thursday. Curry and Thompson were a combined 15 of 49 from the field. Those are performances Golden State can't afford without Durant, its leading scorer who is lost for at least four weeks with a knee injury.

"It happens to the best of them, so you just move on," All-Star Draymond Green said. "You try to make plays, get them the ball and get them open shots, knowing that more often than not they'll fall. But everybody has shooting struggles. Michael Jordan had shooting struggles and the list goes on."

Free agency 2017: A look at the crop

NEW YORK (AP) — Free agency is not the lifeblood of NFL teams. The draft remains the most significant means by which to build and fortify a franchise.

Yet, as the salary cap increases exponentially each year under the 10-year labor agreement reached in 2011, the lure of veterans on the open market can be powerful. Not only do clubs who manage their financial structure wisely have increased funds to spend, they can get quick improvement that doesn't normally come from rookies.

To Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman, it's unusual to see how much money is available for spending, and not just in Carolina.

"Different since I got here," he said. "We had to cut guys to get under, then the next year I think we had to touch one or two contracts to get under, then the last three years we've been able to create separation, sort of.

"Meanwhile, you've got teams that have got crazy money under the cap. It gives you flexibility. It allows you, for lack of a better term, it allows you to expand your thought process."

The Falcons (Alex Mack, Mohamed Sanu), Giants (Damon Harrison, Olivier Vernon, Janoris Jenkins) and Raiders (Bruce Irvin, Kelechi Osemele, Donald Penn) scored in a big way in 2016. The Bears (Danny Trevathan), Dolphins (Arian Foster) and Texans (Brock Osweiler) not so much.

With the 2017 crop lacking big-time difference makers, that extra $12 million each team has to spend might get spread around a bit more. Then again, overspending has become second nature in free agency for far too many teams.

HEAD OF THE CLASS

There were four All-Pros whose contracts were up after the 2015 season. Von Miller, Eric Berry and Doug Martin returned to their teams. Josh Norman had the franchise tag dropped by Carolina and scored big with a five-year, $75 million deal in Washington.

Four top guys who won't be going anywhere:

Le'Veon Bell , RB, Pittsburgh—The Steelers tagged their all-world back and he won't be leaving Steel City.

Eric Berry, S, Kansas City—He threatened to sit out 2017 rather than be tagged again and he won, getting a long-term deal as the league's highest-paid safety.

Kirk Cousins, QB, Washington - When a good but not great quarterback such as Cousins is making more than Super Bowl winners, it shows how valued (and overvalued) the position can be.

Jason Pierre-Paul , DE, New York Giants—The Giants are convinced he's found ways to be consistently dangerous despite his hand issues from 2015 fireworks accident.

Still on teams' radars:

Alshon Jeffery, WR, Chicago: If he stays healthy, Jeffery can be a No. 1 target. In this pass-first league, that's a must-have commodity.

Latavius Murray, RB, Oakland: Teams outside of Dallas have discovered the need for two running backs. Murray pretty much would fit anywhere.

Andrew Whitworth, OT, Cincinnati: Veteran left tackles with versatility, leadership skills and intelligence are difficult to find.

Dont'a Hightower, LB, New England: Probably the best defender on the NFL champions, and a good locker room guy.

Dontari Poe, DT, Kansas City: If he isn't the best at his position in the NFL, he's close.

Superstars without a home:

Adrian Peterson, RB: Surely the former Viking will get a nice, if short, deal from a club in dire need of a ground threat who could put it over the top.

Darrelle Revis, CB: He might have legal issues, and he slipped badly in his return to the Jets. If he has anything left, Revis is a find for someone—with a short-term contract.

Jamaal Charles, RB: One of the league's most gallant and versatile players, but his knee problems might be too much to overcome.

AP

In this Feb. 5, 2017, file photo, New England Patriots Dont'a Hightower folllows the action during NFL football's Super Bowl 51 against the Atlanta Falcons in Houston.

NEXT IN LINE

These players are not far behind those above, but some come with significant questions marks. Listed alphabetically:

A.J. Bouye, CB, Houston; Calais Campbell, DE, Arizona; Pierre Garcon, WR, Washington; DeSean Jackson, WR, Washington; Tony Jefferson, S, Arizona; Trumaine Johnson (non-exclusive tag), CB, Los Angeles Rams; Chris Long, DE, New England; Brandon Marshall, WR, New York Jets; Alex Okafor, LB, Arizona; Nick Perry, LB, Green Bay; Terrelle Pryor, WR, Cleveland; Kawann Short (non-exclusive tag), DT, Carolina; Brandon Williams, DT, Baltimore; Kevin Zeitler, G, Cincinnati.

SECOND WAVE

Some of these players might get quick deals more because of the position they play than their overall production. Some have excellent timing, hitting free agency after effective seasons. Listed alphabetically:

Kamar Aiken, WR, Baltimore; Martellus Bennett, TE, New England; Zach Brown, LB, Buffalo; Trent Cole, LB (edge rusher), Indianapolis; Jared Cook, TE, Green Bay; Patrick DiMarco, FB, Atlanta; Jack Doyle, TE, Indianapolis; Stephon Gilmore, CB, Buffalo; Mike Glennon, QB, Tampa Bay; Micah Hyde, S, Green Bay; Melvin Ingram (non-exclusive tag), LB, Los Angeles Chargers; Chandler Jones (non-exclusive tag), LB, Arizona; Matt Kalil, LT, Minnesota; Dre Kirkpatrick, CB, Cincinnati; Eddie Lacy, RB, Green Bay; T.J. Lang, G, Green Bay; Kelvin Sheppard, LB, New York Giants; Logan Ryan, CB, New England; J.C. Tretter, C, Green Bay; Kendall Wright, WR, Tennessee.

Jets release veteran WR Brandon Marshall

NEW YORK (AP)—Brandon Marshall is on the move again—and the New York Jets' roster purge of big-name players with big salaries continues.

The Jets on Friday released the well-traveled wide receiver and cleared $7.5 million on the salary cap.

Marshall is the latest star to be cut by the Jets, who have also parted ways with Darrelle Revis, Nick Mangold, Nick Folk and Breno Giacomini this offseason. New York has cleared nearly $46 million in cap space during the past few weeks.

Newsday first reported the move, and also said that Marshall asked for his release—and was granted his request—after weighing his options, including New York being interested in having the receiver return next season.

"Brandon was an important addition in 2015," said general manager Mike Maccagnan. "He strives to make the most out of every opportunity and brought an unrivaled commitment to his craft. I'm sure he will continue with that same mindset as he moves forward."

Marshall has never been to the playoffs in his 11 NFL seasons and could opt to hook on with another team that he considers a possible postseason contender.

In a statement posted on Instagram , Marshall thanked several members of the Jets organization, including owner Woody Johnson, Maccagnan and coach Todd Bowles "for bringing me in and embracing me." He also thanked, by name, members of the equipment and training staffs, the media relations department, the maintenance crew - and even the media.

Marshall also gave a shoutout to "the incredibly loyal Jets fans" - and apologized to them.

"I'm sorry.....I'm sorry we couldn't bring you a championship, but I wish you and my former organization the very best in your pursuit for one in the future," he wrote. "I'm looking forward to finding a great organization where I can contribute and bring home a championship. I know I have a lot left to give, and @michimarshall and I will truly miss the Jets, but we are excited for what lies ahead."

Marshall, who turns 33 on March 23, played two seasons for the Jets, and set franchise records with 109 catches and 1,502 yards receiving in 2015 while being voted the team's MVP by his teammates.

His production dropped dramatically last season, though, as he had just 59 receptions for 788 yards and three TDs while dealing with a few injuries and inconsistent quarterback play.

"I've known Brandon a long time and, more than the great player he is, I'm proud of the man that he's become," said Bowles. "His passion about mental health awareness speaks for itself and he was always willing to mentor our younger players. He cares deeply about the game and others and it shows in everything he does."

Marshall was also involved in a locker room argument with teammate Sheldon Richardson after the Jets were blown out in Kansas City in Week 3.

That spat appeared to set the tone for the Jets' 5-11 season, with Revis saying the incident "just left a dark cloud over our head."

Wide receiver Quincy Enunwa said New York's locker-room conflict "didn't help us. You look at our record and it really hindered our play."

Marshall has also previously played for Denver, Miami and Chicago, which traded him and a seventh-round draft pick to New York in 2015 for a fifth-rounder.

After a terrific first season with the Jets, capped by his sixth Pro Bowl selection, Marshall endured a difficult second campaign in New York.

He played through a sprained knee ligament, sprained foot and toe injury for most of the season, which ended with him being inactive for the season finale because of a sore hip.

"It was probably my most frustrating year," Marshall said the day after the season ended.

He insisted, though, that he intends to play until he's about 38 or 39, and believes he still is capable of putting up big seasons.

"I'm still extremely confident that I'm an elite receiver," he said. "I still demand double-coverage, still demand a lot of attention. ... I think I'm still at that level where I can demand that type of respect, that type of coverage. The numbers weren't there, and that's new for me. I think this is a year that most receivers can hang their hat on, but not for me.

"The bar's set high, and it's unacceptable."

Marshall has caught at least 100 passes six times in his career and has put up at least 1,000 yards eight times. During his final meeting with Jets reporters in January, Marshall said the gaudy numbers and big contracts are no longer important to him.

"It's not about the money anymore," he said at the time. "It's all about winning."

As for the Jets, they still have Eric Decker, who is rehabilitating from offseason hip and shoulder surgery and is expected to be ready in time for the regular season. He missed all but three games last season, catching just nine passes for 194 yards and two TDs.

Decker's absence helped create opportunities for some younger receivers, including Enunwa, who set career highs with 58 catches for 857 yards and four scores. Speedy undrafted rookie Robby Anderson also opened eyes by catching 42 passes for 587 yards and two TDs.

Youngsters Devin Smith, Charone Peake and Jalin Marshall also remain on the roster.

Abreu: I was close to trainer accused of smuggling

MIAMI (AP)—Chicago White Sox star Jose Abreu testified Thursday that he had an extremely close relationship with a Florida baseball trainer on trial along with a sports agent for allegedly smuggling Cuban ballplayers off the island.

Abreu acknowledged giving trainer Julio Estrada $25,000 a month last summer after Estrada's assets were frozen by the government following his indictment in the smuggling case—$10,000 more than Estrada had requested. He did so, Abreu testified, "because of the high esteem I have for him."

Abreu also paid Estrada's wife an undisclosed amount to help decorate the player's South Florida home, even though she has no professional experience doing that work. He bought a separate $500,000 house in the Florida Keys for Estrada to live in rent-free, and Estrada was best man at Abreu's wedding.

"These were people who had helped me a lot in getting into this country, so I had a lot of trust in them," Abreu told a jury.

Estrada and sports agent Bartolo Hernandez are charged with conspiracy and alien smuggling for allegedly overseeing a network that brought Abreu and other ballplayers out of Cuba by boat to third countries, such as Mexico and Haiti, where they could establish residency and seek lucrative free-agent contracts with Major League Baseball teams.

AP
Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu, left, and attorney Roberto Martinez, right, leave federal court during a break, Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Miami.

In return, Estrada and Hernandez got a percentage of those player contracts. In Abreu's case, Estrada's Total Baseball company was to be paid 20 percent of his $68 million White Sox contract, with Hernandez and two partners getting 5 percent.

Abreu testified that he has kept his end of the bargain, paying Estrada's firm more than $7 million since he signed the Chicago deal in 2013. He still owes about $5 million but is not sure if he will pay Estrada any more, especially considering the trainer is facing significant prison time if convicted.

"Things have changed," Abreu testified. "They are different now."

Abreu, who was American League Rookie of the Year in 2014 and is a top MLB power hitter, also said he now thinks the terms he agreed to with Estrada were unfair to him.

"Do you feel like you were taken advantage of by Julio's company?" asked Estrada attorney Sabrina Puglisi.

"Yes," Abreu replied.

Abreu testified Wednesday he used a fake Haitian passport to fly to Miami in October 2013, eating part of the document while in the air to cover it up. As a Cuban, he was permitted to remain in the U.S. under immigration rules at the time, despite having no visa or other valid travel papers.

Neither Estrada nor Hernandez had advance knowledge of his clandestine trip, Abreu testified.

"Would you say Julio always urged you to do things the right way?" Puglisi asked.

"Yes," the player responded.

After coming to the U.S., Abreu said he sought to get several family members out of Cuba. He enlisted the help of Amin Latouff, described as a part of the smuggling network in Haiti who could get fake documents and provide other services necessary for the players' relocation. He paid Latouff $115,000 for the service, with some of the money delivered in cash by human "mules" who traveled to Haiti from Miami, Abreu said.

"I would bring my family to the United States no matter at what cost," he testified.

Latouff was indicted in the U.S. smuggling case but has remained at large.

Abreu finished his second day of testimony Thursday morning and was free to return to White Sox spring training in Arizona. The prosecution part of the case is nearing an end after about a month, to be followed by testimony from defense witnesses. It's not clear if either Hernandez or Estrada will testify.

Red Sox say Price will not need arm surgery or injection

By MAUREEN MULLEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

After David Price consulted two renowned orthopedic doctors, the Boston Red Sox said Friday the left-hander will not need surgery or an injection in his ailing left arm.

Price traveled to Indianapolis on Thursday for consultation with Drs. James Andrews and Dr. Neal ElAttrache, who were at the NFL Combine. Price is expected to return Saturday to Boston's spring training complex in Fort Myers, Florida.

"Indy is a little chilly right now so I'm gonna head back to fort myers! My 40 time was 4.11...ill let one of you name my island," Price tweeted Friday.

Manager John Farrell said the findings represented a best-case scenario for Price, who will rest and receive treatment for the next seven to 10 days. It is uncertain when Price will resume throwing.

"A very positive exam given the concern a couple days ago," Farrell said after Boston's 9-1 win over Atlanta in Kissimmee. "The approach we're going to take with him is he'll receive medication and treatment in the next seven to 10 days. We'll re-evaluate him at that time."

Price felt discomfort in his left elbow and forearm on Wednesday, a day after a two-inning, 38-pitch simulated game. He was scratched from his first scheduled spring training start, on Sunday.

Price had an MRI on Wednesday, which showed swelling and fluid near the ulnar collateral ligament. Farrell said the initial exam was inconclusive, leading to the additional opinions.

"Even talking with David on his way up there, he felt with each passing hour he was becoming more free," Farrell said. "As we talked about him experiencing the type of forearm issue in spring training, it may be a little more intensified this year, but still, this is the spring training arm he goes through. A very positive exam given the concern a couple days ago."

Price went 17-9 with a 3.99 ERA in a major league-leading 35 starts last season, his first after signing a $210 million, seven-year contract with the Red Sox.

Boston began camp with Price, reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello and Chris Sale, acquired in a December trade with the White Sox, as its top three projected starters. Knuckleballer Steven Wright and lefthanders Drew Pomeranz and Eduardo Rodriguez are competing for the final two spots.

5 MAJOR

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Saipan's Anton Aguon (.500), and Isidro Lizama (.500), McDonald's player Joseph Ada (.428), the Little Legals' Gunner Sablan (.428), and the Braves' Patrick Celis (.420)

Completing the batting leaderboard are the Braves' Taisei Desebel (.400), Pirates 1's Melvin Tudela (.400), Pirates 2's Easton Cruz (.400), Bank of Saipan's JeQuinn Lizama (.375), Little Legals' Kaipo Dikito (.375), Falcons' Noah Aguon (.375) and Jonathan Riungel (.375), Little Legals' Delbert Sablan (.333), Bank of Saipan's Jesus Tyquengco (.333), and the Comets' Ronald Muna (.333).

In the pitching race, which was based on four or more innings on the mound, four players are on top with their 0.00 ERA.

Serrano is among the leaders after working the mound in 10 innings and giving up no earned runs. Pirates 2's Gregorio Pangelinan also did not yield a single run in five innings pitched, while Jason Reyes and Tyler Fitial had the same feats in the 8.1 and four innings they stayed on the mound for their respective teams.

Isidro Lizama and Delbert Sablan joined the pitching leaderboard with their identical 0.75 ERA with the former pitching eight innings and the latter in 7.2.

Delbert has 20 strikeouts so far, matching Serrano's output, while Jason Reyes and Isidro Lizama have 18 apiece. In the most runs category, Desebel has six, while Isidro Lizama leads in the RBI division with his four. In the doubles, L.J. Reyes and Isidro Lizama have two apiece, while only Alvin Hocog and Delbert Sbalan have circled the plate (once) this season.

SPIKERS

From Page 28

ping him from scoring. He also was lauded for his quiet sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

For her part, Deleon Guerrero was named NMSA Female Athlete of the Month after her exceptional stint in the same VolleyTine Tournament where she led Goal Diggers to the championship of the women's division.

With her consistent passes, sets, serves, and kills Deleon Guerrero was able to help her team go undefeated throughout the tournament. In fact, she was the only female player to successfully hit a 1 (low, quick set) during the VolleyTine Tournament.

Deleon Guerrero's teammate Lumasag, meanwhile, is NMSA's Female Student Athlete of the Month in February for the improvement she showed during the VolleyTine Tournament.

A mainstay of the Marianas High School varsity volleyball squad, Lumasag adjusted well on the court with advance players and managed to keep up with their momentum during the tournament. Despite the difference in playing skills and experience, Lumasag proved herself by hustling for the ball, executing hits, and being consistent on her serves.

NMSA Male Student Athlete of the Month Aleksenko won the February honor after his performance in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club Pentathlon Swimming Meet where the Saipan Community School student broke the CNMI record in the 50m backstroke for the 9-10 age group.

Aleksenko swam the event in 37.29 last Feb. 18 to best the 38.13 Ryuto Yanai set in May 2014. The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan wunderkind has only been swimming for the past two years, which makes his record-breaking performance last month more amazing. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TSUNAMI

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joins the company of Tammy and Angel Marie Tan.

The 50m backstroke was one of the five events Ashley ruled. She swam in the 50m butterfly with her 33.10 seconds earning her a PBT. Her times in other events were 45.81 seconds (50m breaststroke), 31.66 seconds (50m freestyle), and 2:51.66 (200m individual medley).

Meanwhile, Aleksenko also gained an age group record (boys 9 to 10) in the 50m backstroke with his 37.29 seconds nearly a second faster than the 38.13 Ryuto Yanai posted on May 3, 2014. The 10-year-old Aleksenko finished the sprint race more than a minute faster than Tsunami Saipan teammate Hans Xu (38.82 seconds) and way ahead of SSC's Takeru Jim (57.59 seconds).

Besides his age group mark and first place finish in the 50m backstroke event, Aleksenko reigned supreme, too in the 200m IM (2:50.92), 50m freestyle (30.97 seconds), 50m breaststroke (44.68 seconds), and 50m butterfly (35.17 seconds). Aleksenko holds three other records in his age group—50m freestyle (30.66 seconds), 400m freestyle (5:08.50), and 800m freestyle (10:34.52).

Aleksenko and the Dangol siblings and eight other Tsunami Saipan swimmers competed in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2017 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena after the pentathlon meet. The tournament in Tokyo was held over the weekend and results of the races were unavailable at press time.

TRAC Age Group Triathlon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Participants and organizers of the TRAC Age Group Triathlon pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the off- and on-road races at PauPau Beach.

Women's off-road runner-up Tomomi Sato, right, receives her medal from race volunteer Ronald Villafria.

Youth division off-road champion Taiga Sato, center, and runner-up Von Adrian Libayan, left, are joined in the group photo by one of the race volunteers Frolence Antonio, right.

Women's road race champion Claire Devey, left, is congratulated by Florence Antonio.

Women's off-road first placer Ayano Braxton, center, smiles after receiving her award.

Third overall finisher Mark Isip (off-road) and No. 1 Noel Altamirano pose for a photo after getting their medals.

Youth road champion Christian Villacrusis, left, and runner-up Caleb Wang are all smiles after getting their medals.

Off-road triathlon overall first finisher Charlie Sendin, center, and age group winner Manny Sitchon pose for a photo.

Dragic leads Miami Heat to win over undermanned Cleveland

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Free agency 2017: A look at the crop

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Little Legals player waits for the pitch during their game against the Comets in the Major division game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last month at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

5 Major division players stand out early

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five players showed strong batting and pitching skills in the early stage of the Major division competition in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball.

In the batting category, the Braves' Joel Borja was perfect in his team's two wins in as many games at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, going 4-for-4 at the plate. He leads 19 others in the batting race, which was based on three or more at bats and was updated last Feb. 26.

The Falcons' Keoni Borja and McDonald's player Lushawarr Reyes are tied for second place with similar batting averages of .600. Both went 6-for-10 with Serrano powering the Falcons to a 3-0 record, pending results of weekend's matches.

Joining Borja, Serrano, and Reyes in the Top 10 were McDonald's player Joel Deleon Guerrero (.500 batting average), the Comets' Jason Reyes (.500), Bank of

See 5 MAJOR on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan swimmers set records

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Isaiah Aleksenko is among the three swimmers from Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center to earn an age group mark in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club Pentathlon Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Siblings Aasish and Ashley Dangol of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan entered the record books in their respective divisions, while Isaiah Aleksenko got his third age group mark after Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation certified the results of the 2017 Saipan Swim Club Pentathlon Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tsunami Saipan

Aasish recorded his first age group mark in the boys U8 division after timing in at 36.47 seconds in the 50m butterfly. He shattered the five-year-old record of fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Ryuto Yanai, who clocked in at 36.48 seconds the same date (Feb. 18) Aasish posted his record. With his impressive mark last month, Aasish joined Yanai and Lukas Kang on the record list in the age group.

The 8-year-old Aasish swam in three other events, earning first place in all four races to take the top honors in his age group after collecting 36 points against the 28 of Tsunami Saipan teammate Kouki Watanabe and 18 of Saipan Swim Club's Moshe Sikkel. In the 50m backstroke, Aasish submitted a personal best time (46.11 seconds), while he logged 48.18 second and 36.33 seconds in the 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle, respectively.

Aasish sister—Ashley—also registered her first age group record in the girls 9 to 10 division after submitting 35.77 seconds in the 50m backstroke. Ashley, who owns nine marks in the U8 age group, broke the 36.90 seconds former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Miku Tammy made on March 22, 2013.

With her record-breaking swim in the 50m backstroke, Ashley now

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Spikers dominate February honors

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Volleyball's Alfredo Guevarra, Tazha Deleon Guerrero, and Carol Mae Lumasag and swimming's Isaiah Aleksenko were named athletes of the month for February during the Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Guevarra was voted NMSA Male Athlete of the Month after he suited up for Ball Crushers in the just concluded VolleyTine Tournament.

Ball Crushers heavily relied on Guevarra's attacks to secure the championship of the competition organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association as their opponents had difficulty stop-

See SPIKERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ball Crushers' Alfredo Guevarra, left, and John Legacion both get ready to bump the ball during their game against Serve It & 4Get It during their game in the 2017 VolleyTine Tournament late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.